OVERLORD

SIAN JEFFERSON

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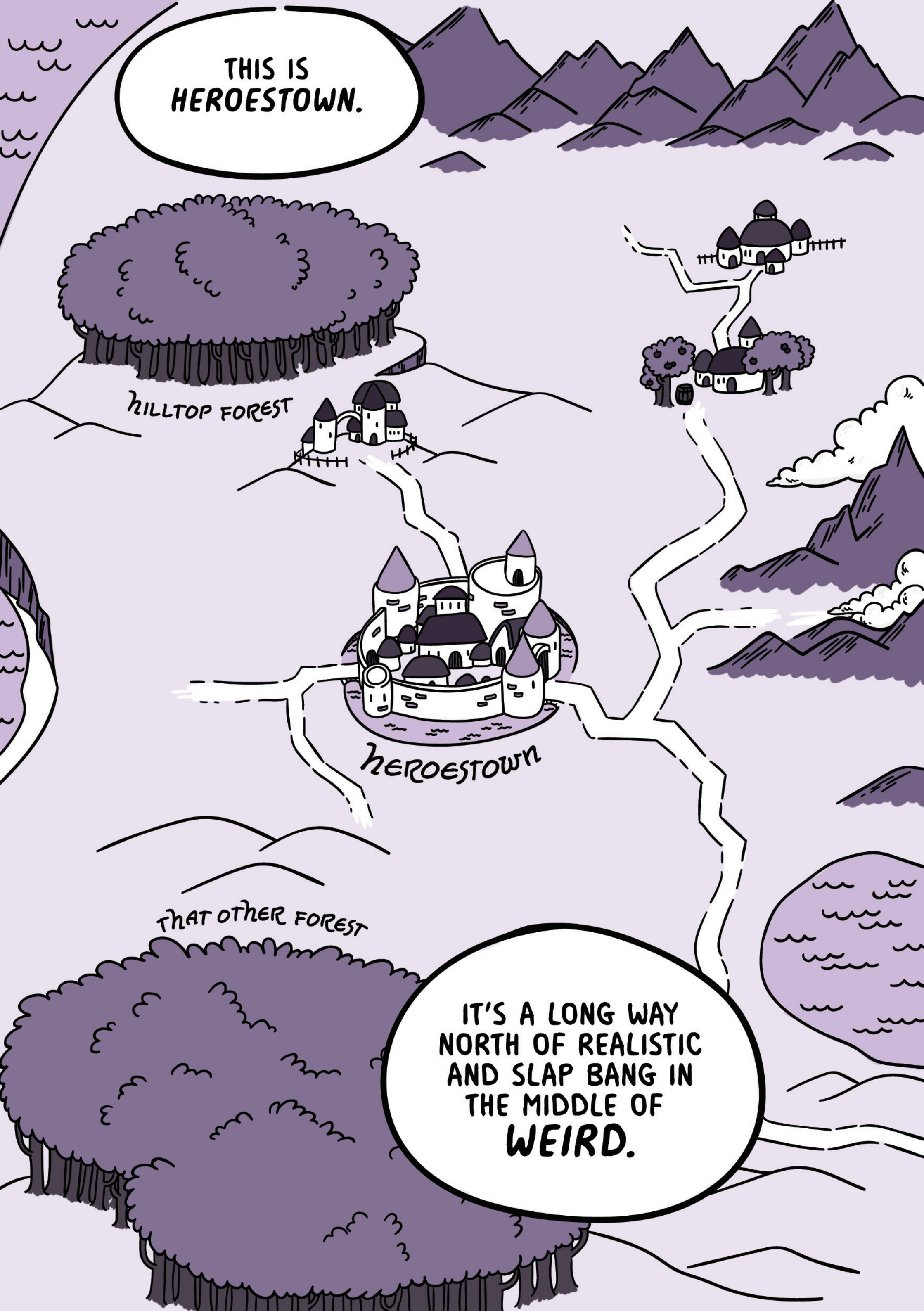
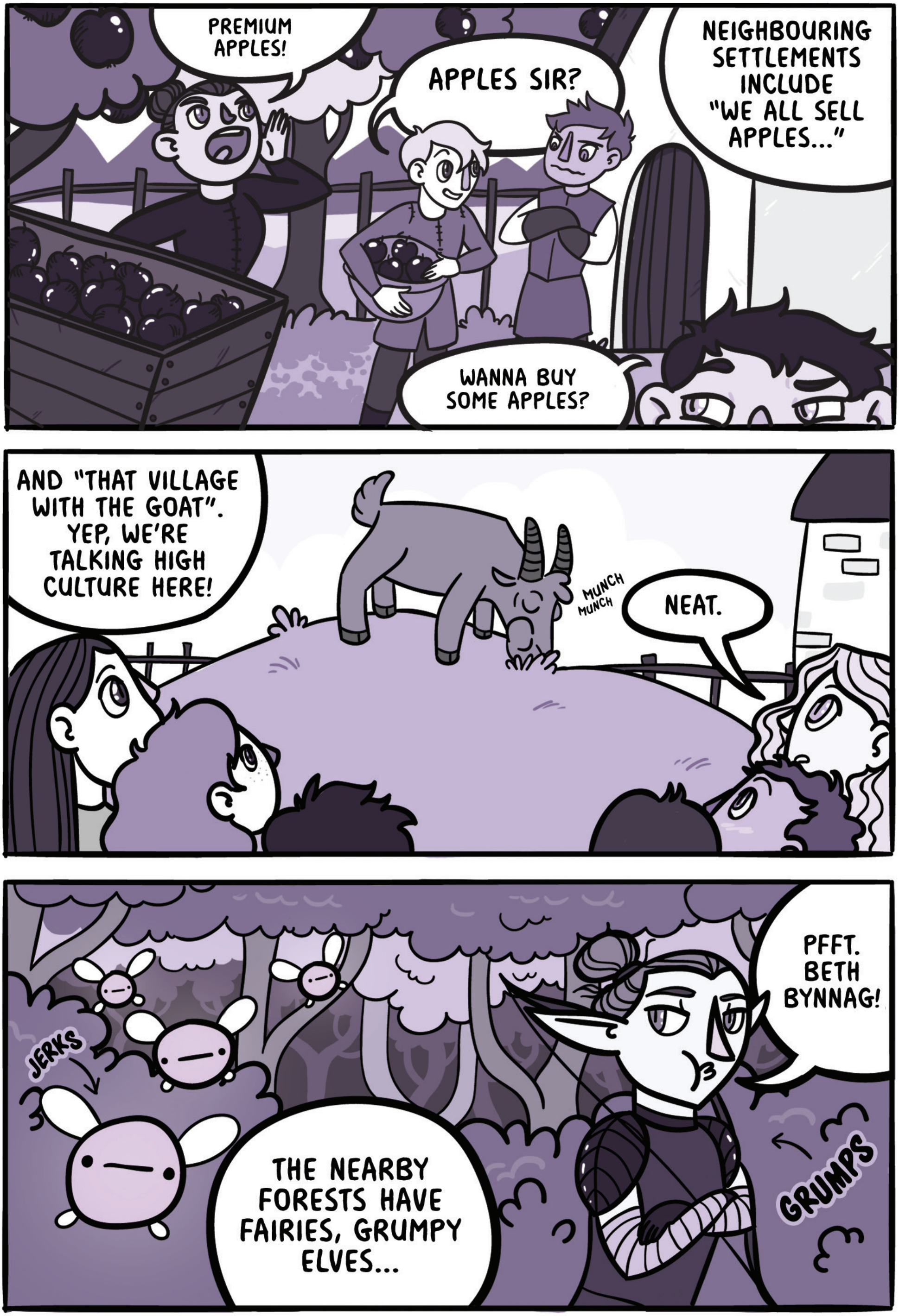
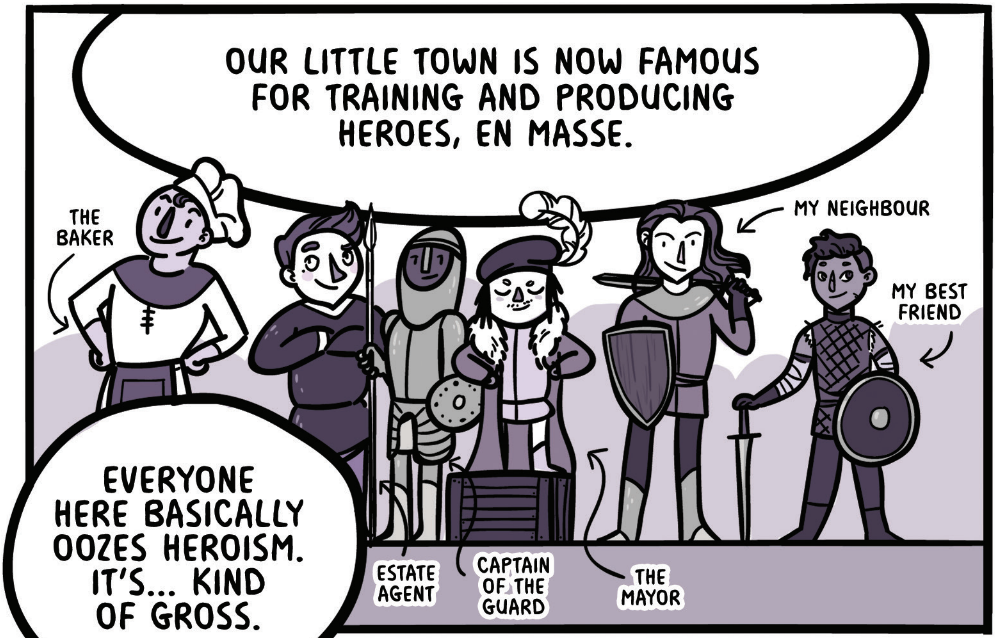
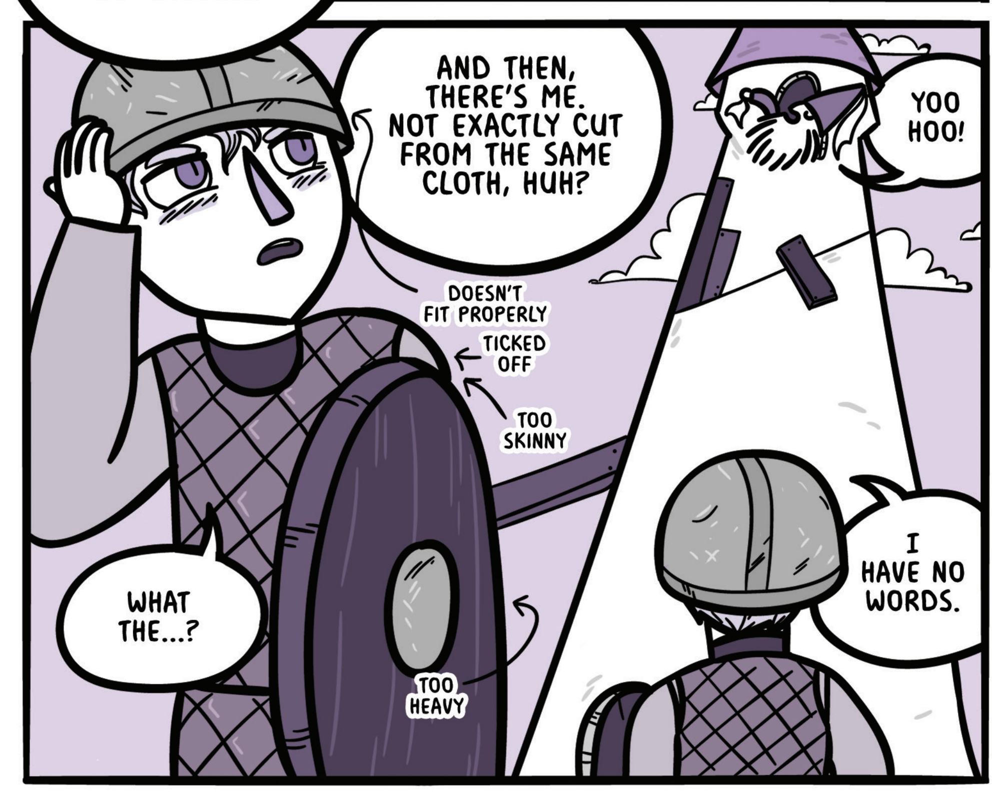

THIS IS HEROESTOWN.
HILLTOP FOREST
HEROESTOWN
THAT OTHER FOREST
IT'S A LONG WAY NORTH OF REALISTIC AND SLAP BANG IN THE MIDDLE OF WEIRD.


PREMIUM APPLES!
APPLES SIR?
NEIGHBOURING SETTLEMENTS INCLUDE "WE ALL SELL APPLES..."
WANNA BUY SOME APPLES?
AND "THAT VILLAGE WITH THE GOAT". YEP, WE'RE TALKING HIGH CULTURE HERE!
MUNCH MUNCH
NEAT.
PFFT. BETH BYNNAG!
JERKS
THE NEARBY FORESTS HAVE FAIRIES, GRUMPY ELVES...
GRUMPS

AND THE MOST ANNOYING GNOMES YOU WILL EVER HAVE TO FORCIBLY EVICT FROM YOUR BOOTS.
BUT BY FAR THE CRAZIEST THING ABOUT HEROESTOWN IS *THE HEROES.*
EVER SINCE *HER,* HEROES ARE PRETTY MUCH OUR MAIN EXPORT.

COME AT ME, BRO!
YAAH!!
BAA?
MY EYE!
I MEAN, YOU DON'T SLAY AN EVIL OVERLORD AND NOT GET ANOTHER HERO-ING GIG OUT OF IT!
'KAY, BYE!
SHAKE
SHAKE

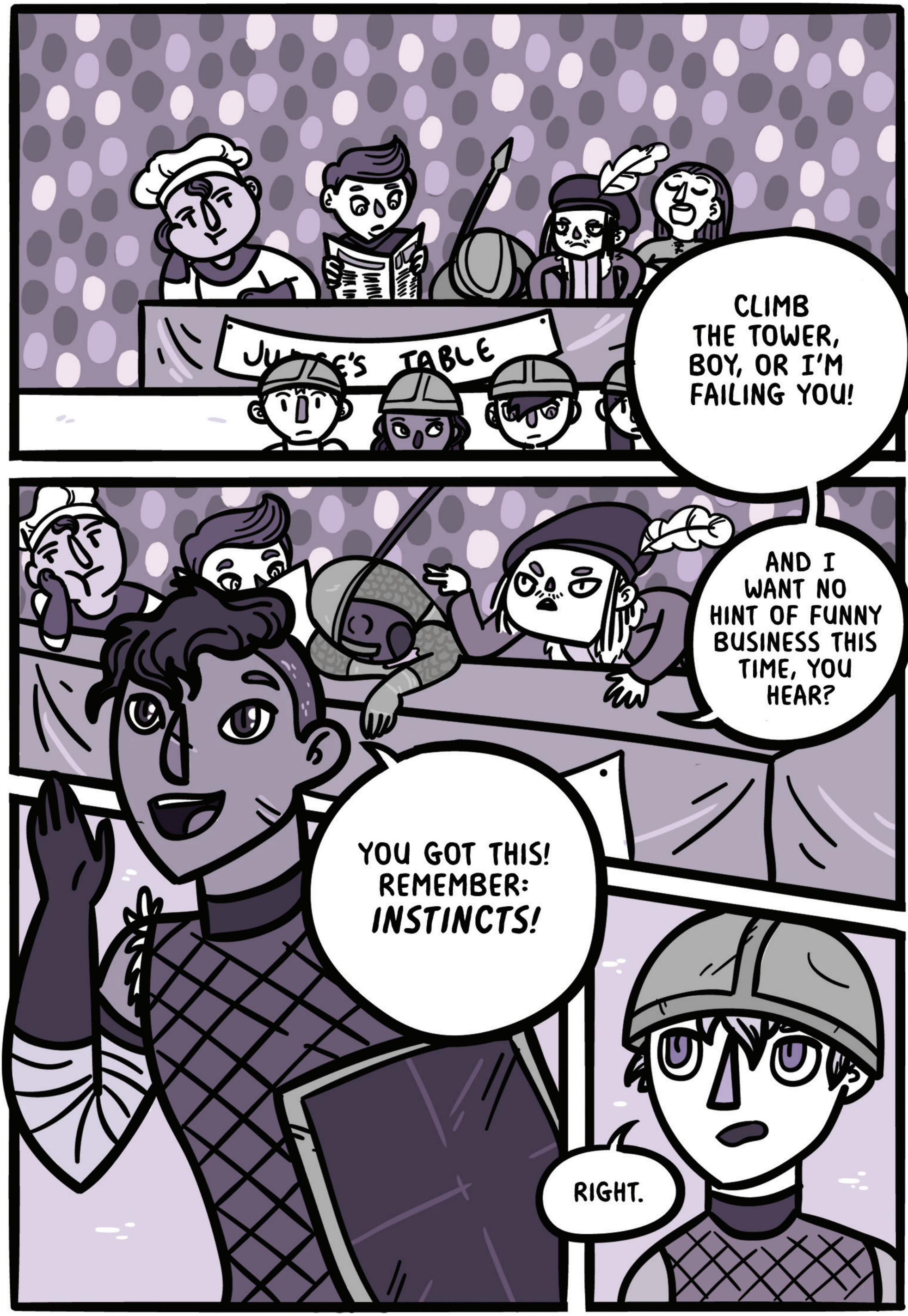

OUR LITTLE TOWN IS NOW FAMOUS FOR TRAINING AND PRODUCING HEROES, EN MASSE.
THE BAKER
MY NEIGHBOUR
MY BEST FRIEND
EVERYONE HERE BASICALLY OOZES HEROISM. IT'S... KIND OF GROSS.
ESTATE AGENT
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
THE MAYOR


AND THEN, THERE'S ME. NOT EXACTLY CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH, HUH?
YOO HOO!
DOESN'T FIT PROPERLY
TICKED OFF
TOO SKINNY
WHAT THE...?
TOO HEAVY
I HAVE NO WORDS.

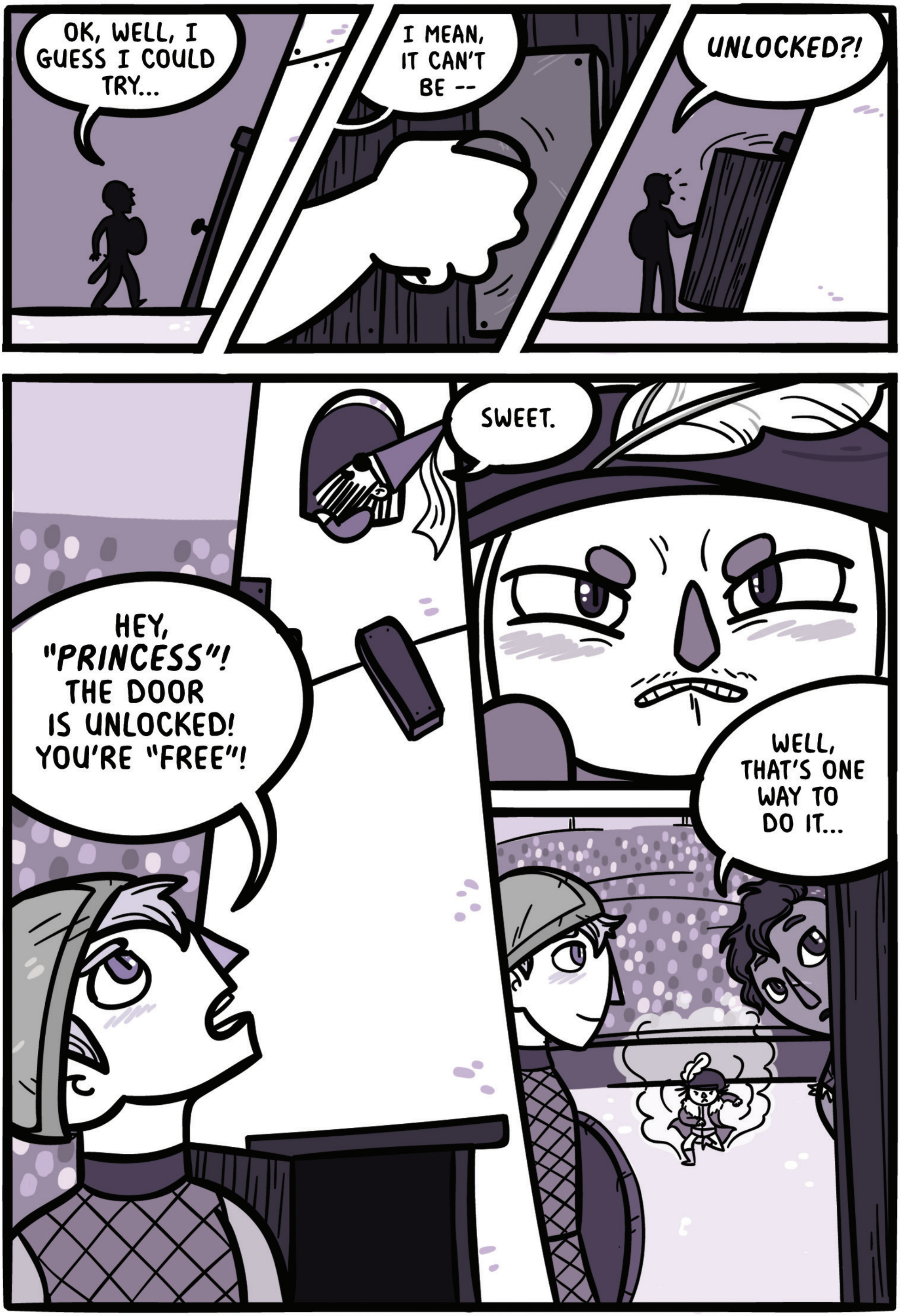
DON'T SWEAT IT. THIS IS THE MOST BASIC PART OF THE EXAM.
THAT'S EASY FOR *YOU* TO SAY - YOU HAVE MUSCLES. IN YOUR ARMS AND EVERYTHING!
BESIDES, THEY'VE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS.
ZZZ
JUDGES TABLE
EVERYONE KNOWS I'M THE LEAST HEROIC PERSON IN TOWN.
!!!
!?
OH, AND LET'S NOT FORGET LAST MONTH WHEN I--

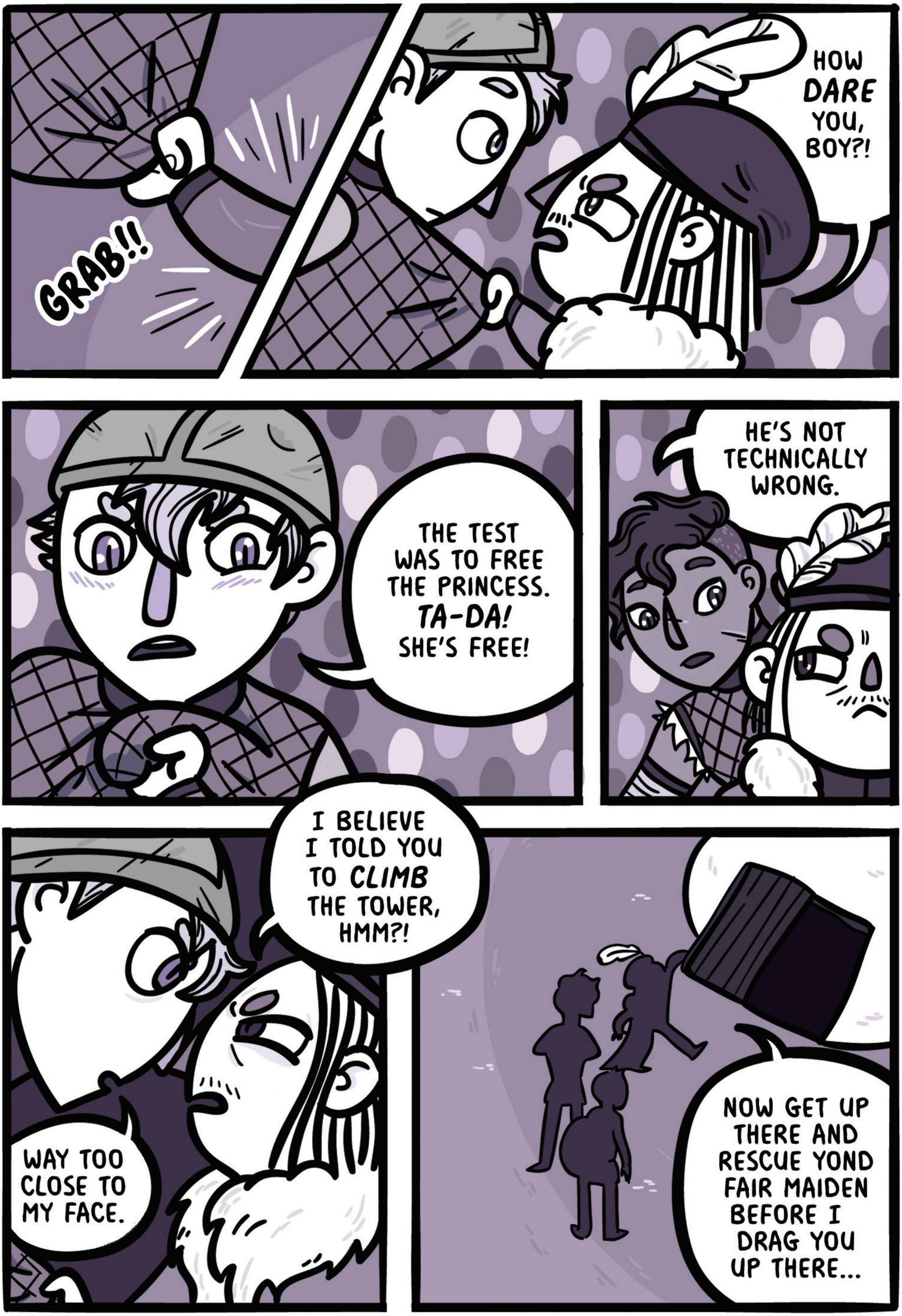
YES, LET'S DISCUSS THAT NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ARENA FULL OF PEOPLE.
WOW, ARE YOU SASSING ME?
I'M SAYING KEEP IT DOWN! PERSONALLY, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU HANGING FROM THE BATTLEMENTS BY YOUR ARMPITS.
BEHOLD THE MAGIC USERS! WITCHES BEWARE!
POOR MRS I. R. WITCHENSON.
YEESH.
I'M JUST SAYING. WHAT IF I... YOU KNOW...

THAT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN HERE, OK? I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
JUST... TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
NOT YOUR MAGIC THOUGH. JUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
I--

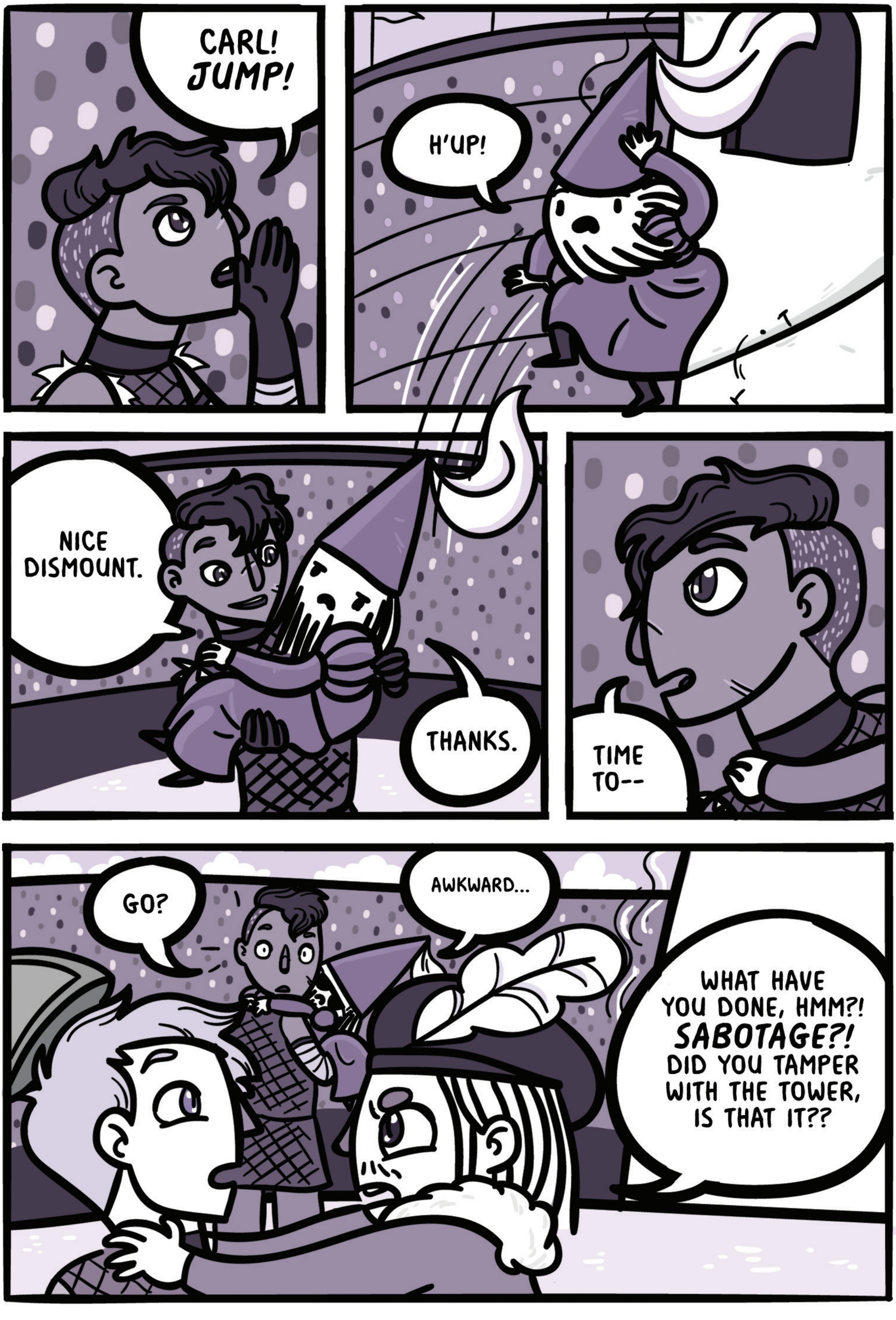


JUDGE'S TABLE
CLIMB THE TOWER, BOY, OR I'M FAILING YOU!
AND I WANT NO HINT OF FUNNY BUSINESS THIS TIME, YOU HEAR?
YOU GOT THIS! REMEMBER: *INSTINCTS!*
RIGHT.


OK, WELL, I GUESS I COULD TRY...
I MEAN, IT CAN'T BE --
UNLOCKED?!
SWEET.
HEY, "PRINCESS"! THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED! YOU'RE "FREE"!
WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY TO DO IT...

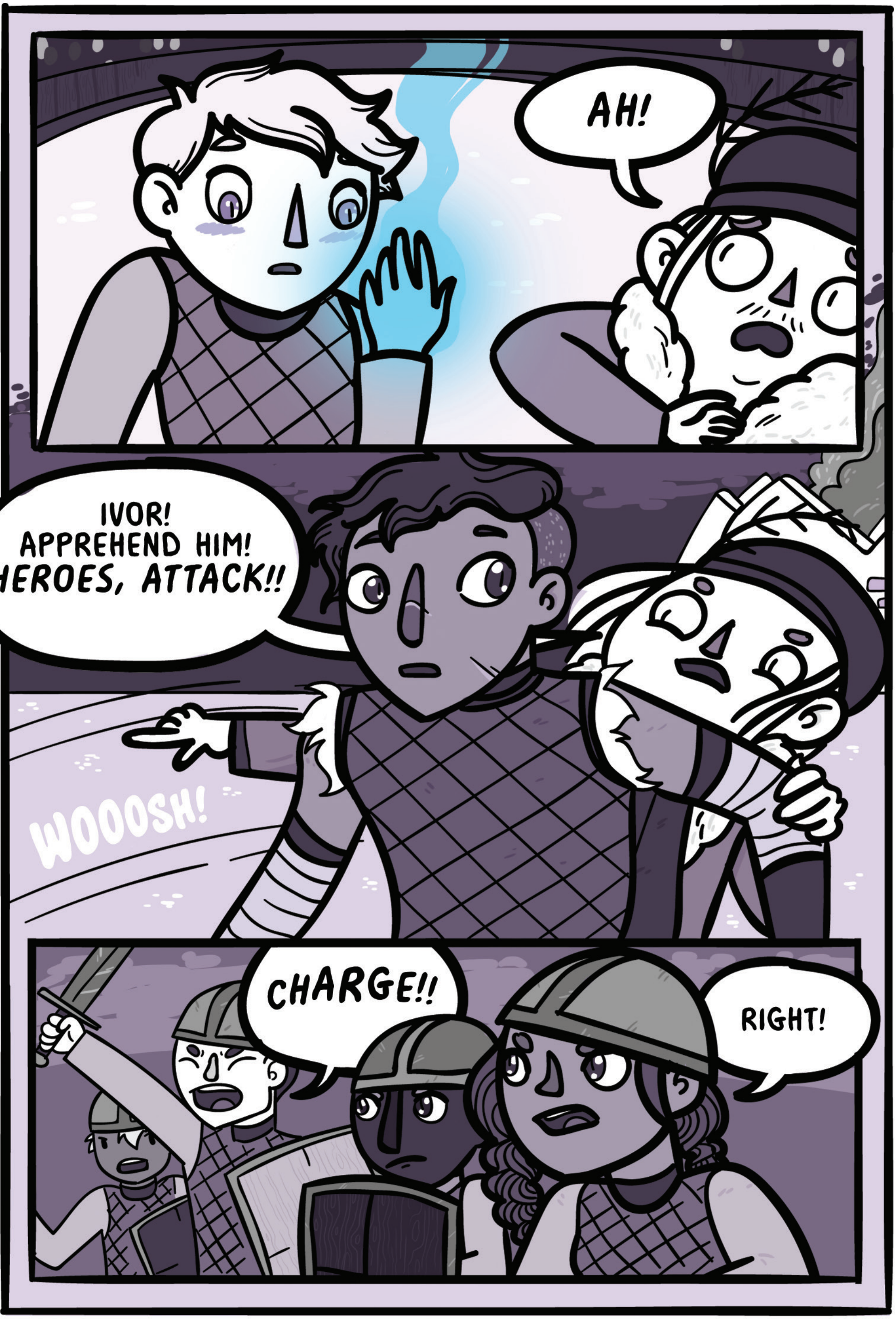

GRAB!!
HOW DARE YOU, BOY?!
THE TEST WAS TO FREE THE PRINCESS. TA-DA! SHE'S FREE!
HE'S NOT TECHNICALLY WRONG.
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU TO CLIMB THE TOWER, HMM?!
WAY TOO CLOSE TO MY FACE.
NOW GET UP THERE AND RESCUE YOND FAIR MAIDEN BEFORE I DRAG YOU UP THERE...

SLAM!!
MYSELF!!
NOOO! MY SUNNIES!
TREMBLE
UH OH...
HMM?

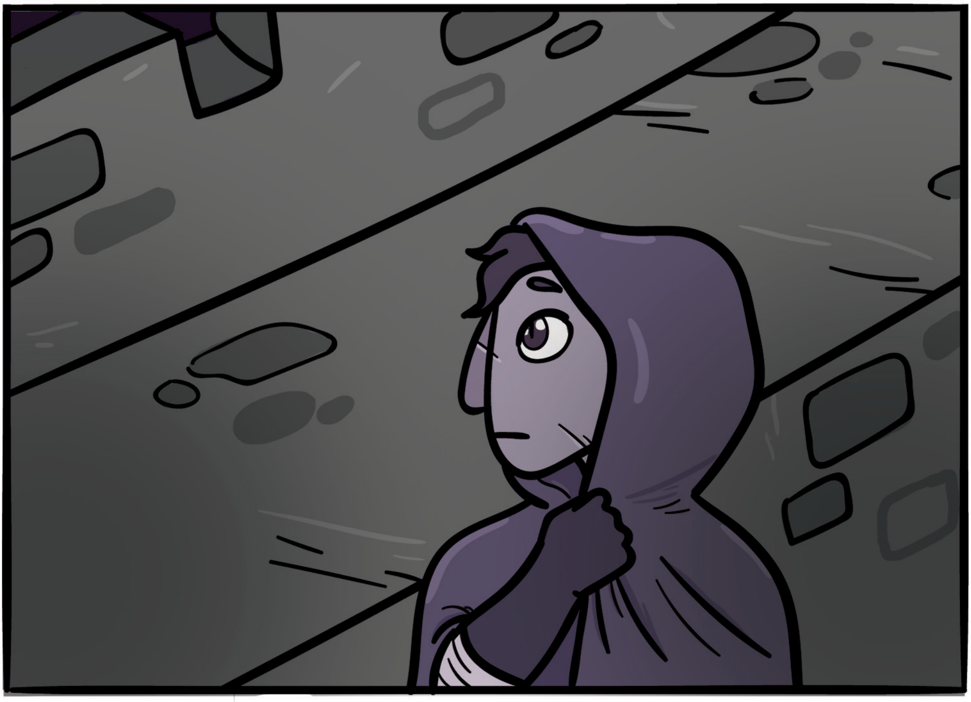

CARL! JUMP!
H'UP!
NICE DISMOUNT.
THANKS.
TIME TO--
GO?
AWKWARD...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, HMM?! SABOTAGE?! DID YOU TAMPER WITH THE TOWER, IS THAT IT??

I'M NOT THE IDIOT WHO SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT!
SIR!
INSOLENCE! MARK MY WORDS, I WILL FIND YOU OUT!
OH...
CRACK!!
I'M ON TO YOU, BOY!!
CLENCH!
NOTHING BUT STRANGENESS AND TROUBLE SINCE THE DAY YOU ARRIVED!
OH NO!
GASP!
THE TOWER!
GAH!
GET. OFF.
H'UP!
KIT! DON'T--!

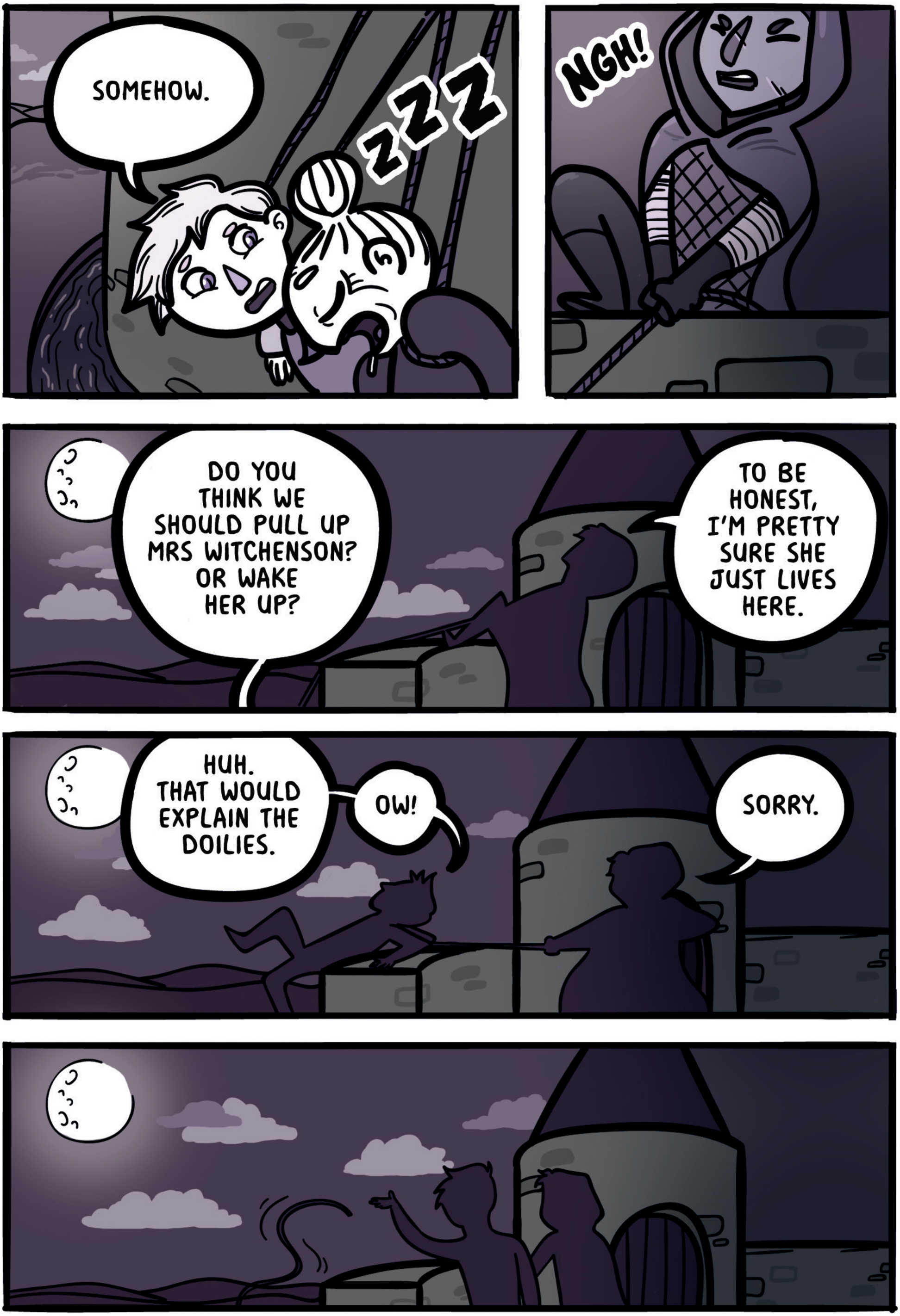
FWOOOOOOOSH!!!
ME!
OW.
WITCH!
NO!
ARGH!!
EVIL HAS RETURNED!
DOOOOOOOOM!!
ACK!


AH!
IVOR!
APPREHEND HIM!
HEROES, ATTACK!!
WOOOSH!
CHARGE!!
RIGHT!

OH CR--
SNOOORE!!



SNOOORE!!
KIT?
IVOR?
I'M HERE!
WHY ARE WE WHISPERING?
MRS WITCHENSON IS SLEEPING...
SNOORE!


SOMEHOW.
zZZ
NGH!
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD PULL UP MRS WITCHENSON? OR WAKE HER UP?
TO BE HONEST, I'M PRETTY SURE SHE JUST LIVES HERE.
HUH. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE DOILIES.
OW!
SORRY.

PHEW! COME ON!
I'VE FOUND SOMEWHERE FOR YOU TO LIE LOW FOR A WHILE UNTIL ALL THIS BLOWS OVER.
LET'S GO!
I CAN'T.
KIT, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME HERE...
I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME!
I CAN'T STAY HERE AFTER THAT!

WHAT...? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, EXACTLY?
IVOR, THE WHOLE TOWN JUST SAW ME DISINTEGRATE A TOWER AND PUNCH THE MAYOR IN THE FACE!
IT WASN'T A REAL TOWER...
IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU JUST PULLED ME UP THE BATTLEMENTS!
BY MY ARMPITS!
I DON'T BELONG HERE - I DON'T FIT IN!
I'M NOT HEROIC IN THE SLIGHTEST! I'M NOT--
...I'M NOT LIKE YOU.

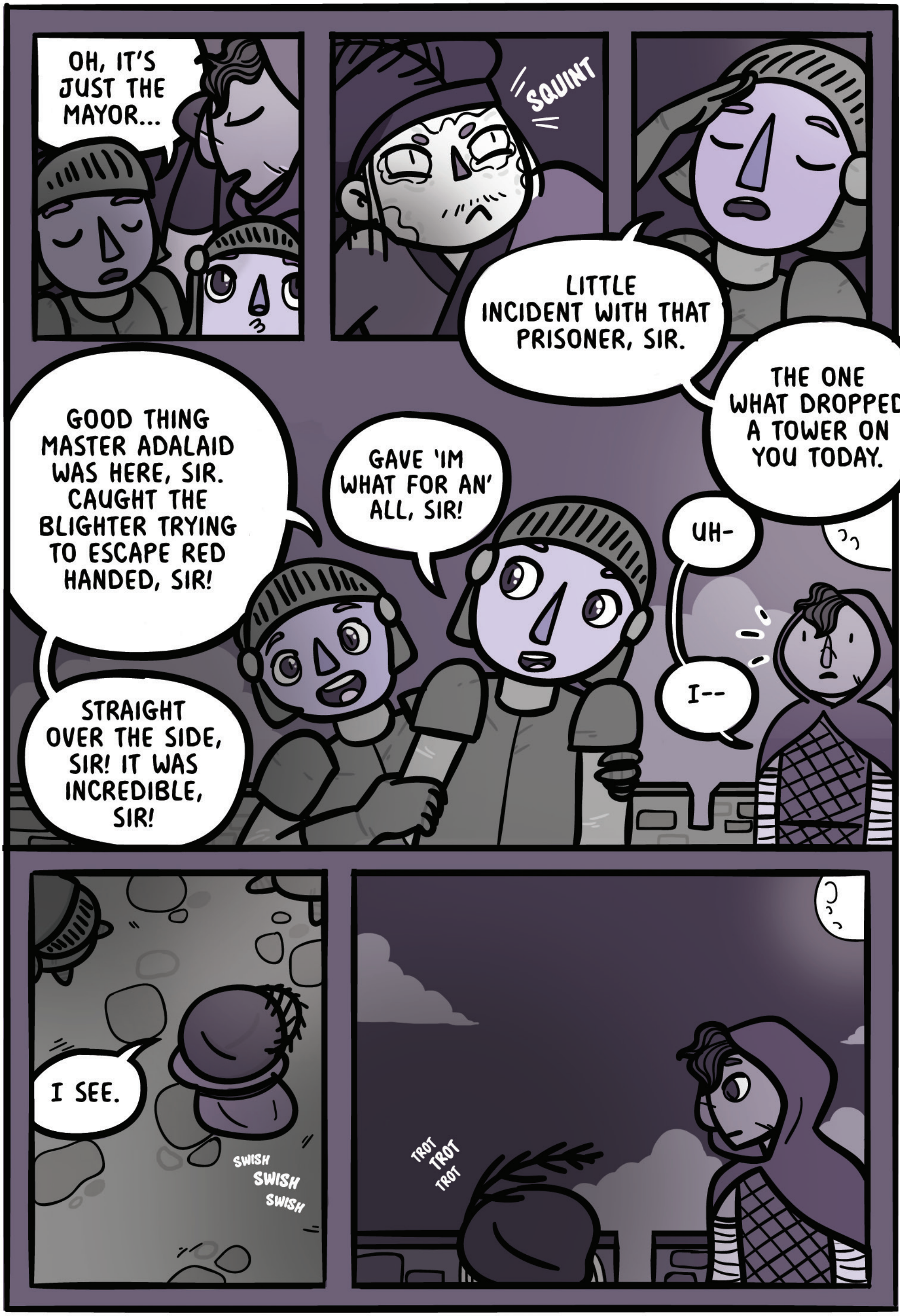
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO BE HEROIC.
BUT THEY DO.
KIT... I...
WHO GOES THERE? WHAT THE--?!

!?
!
HEY YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!!
GUARDS! THE WITCH KID IS ESCAPING!!
WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?!
HUFF! HUFF!!

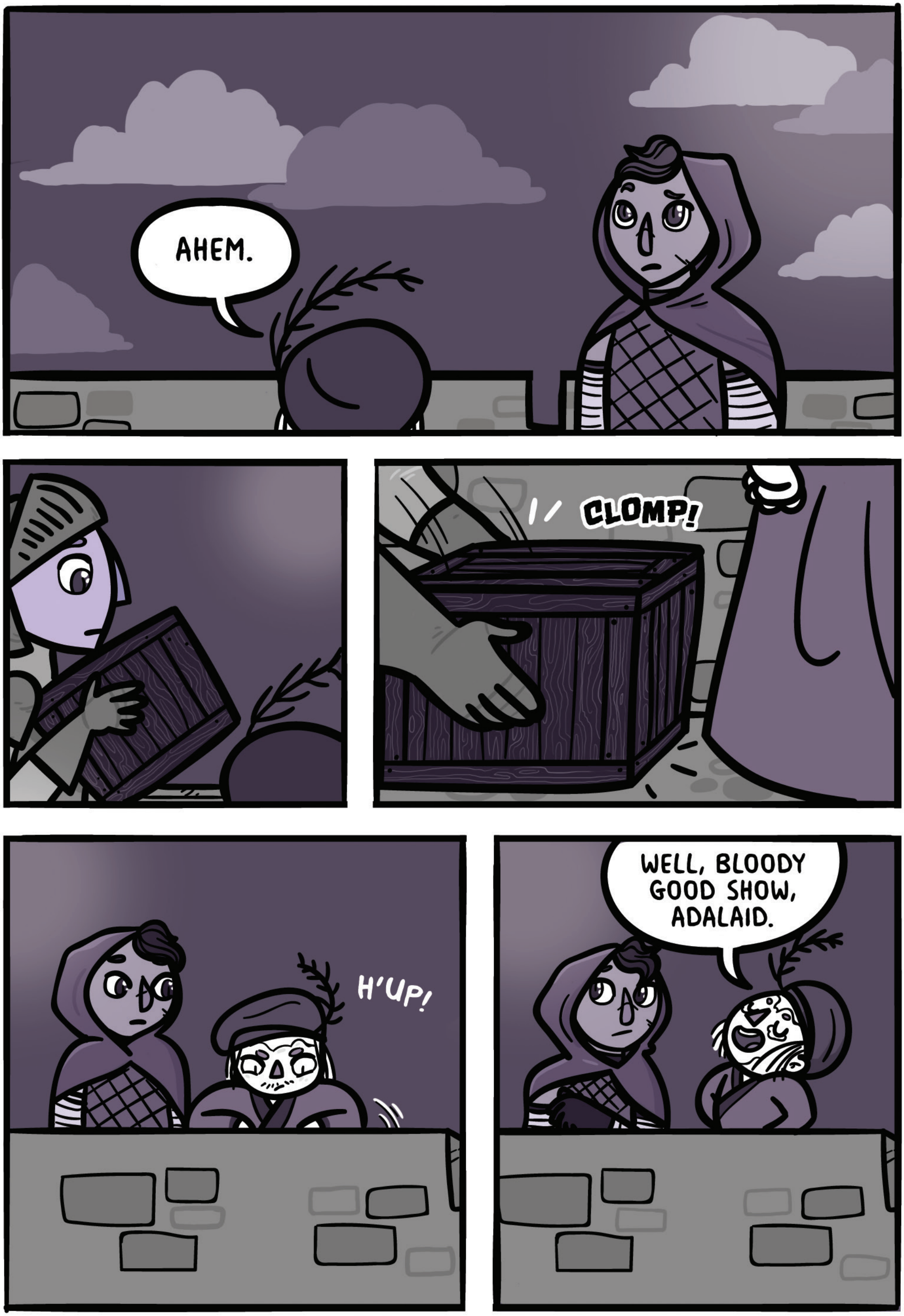
ACK!
GRAB!
LIFT
IVOR?!
WHAT--?
DEEP BREATH.
WHAT?!

SWING!
zZZzz
SPLASH!

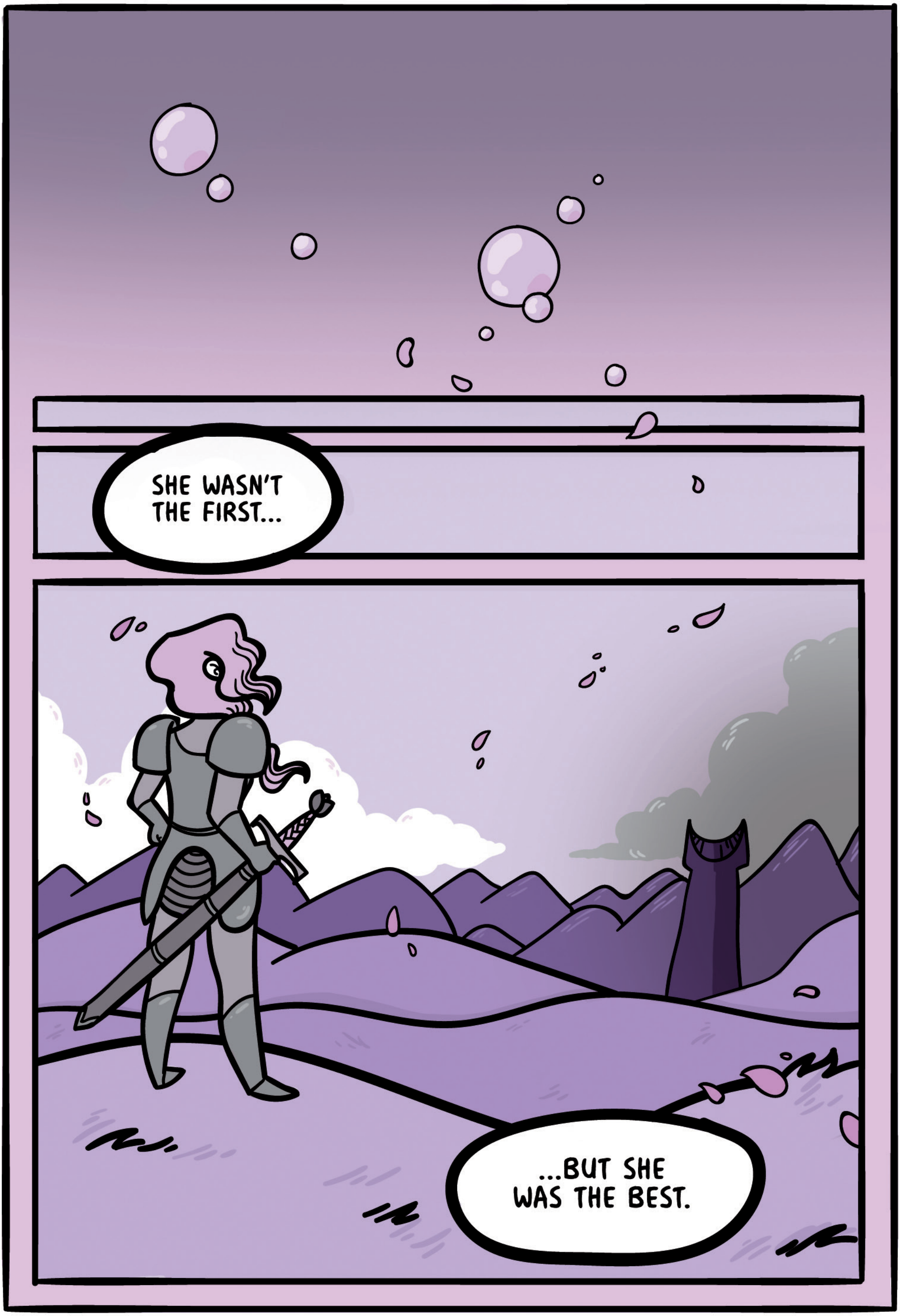
SIR! BLIGHTER ATTACK YOU, DID HE?
MASTER ADALAID PUT HIM STRAIGHT, EH?
WHAT ON EARTH IS THE REASON FOR ALL THIS COMMOTION?!
I WAS MID-SLUMBER, HMM!
GASP!
EEE!
ACK!

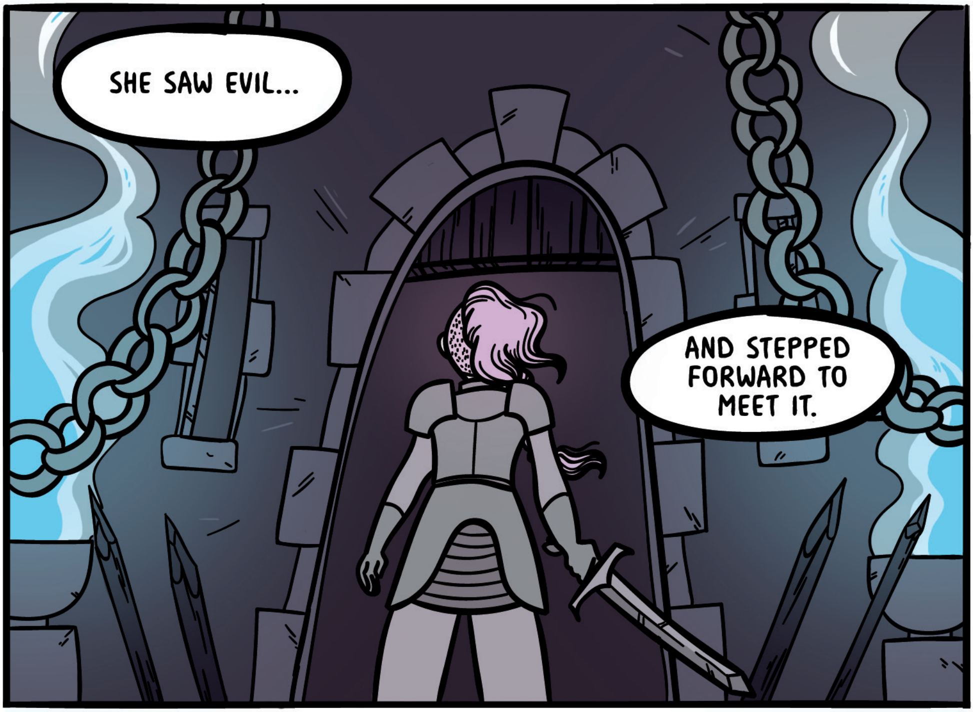


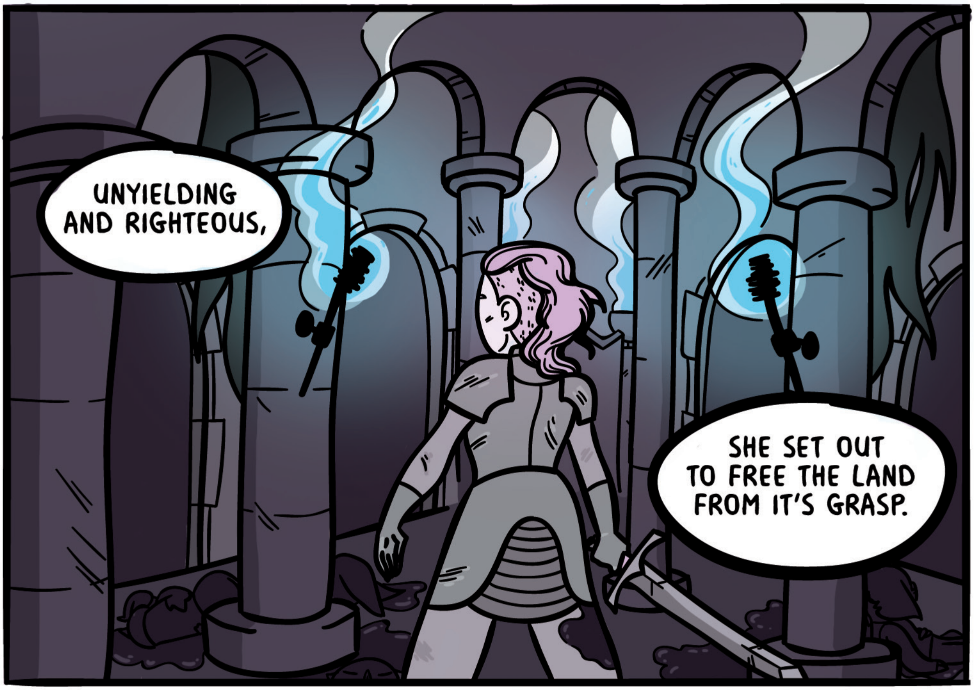
OH, IT'S JUST THE MAYOR...
SQUINT
LITTLE INCIDENT WITH THAT PRISONER, SIR.
THE ONE WHAT DROPPED A TOWER ON YOU TODAY.
GOOD THING MASTER ADALAID WAS HERE, SIR. CAUGHT THE BLIGHTER TRYING TO ESCAPE RED HANDED, SIR!
STRAIGHT OVER THE SIDE, SIR! IT WAS INCREDIBLE, SIR!
GAVE 'IM WHAT FOR AN' ALL, SIR!
UH-
I--
I SEE.
SWISH SWISH SWISH
TROT TROT TROT

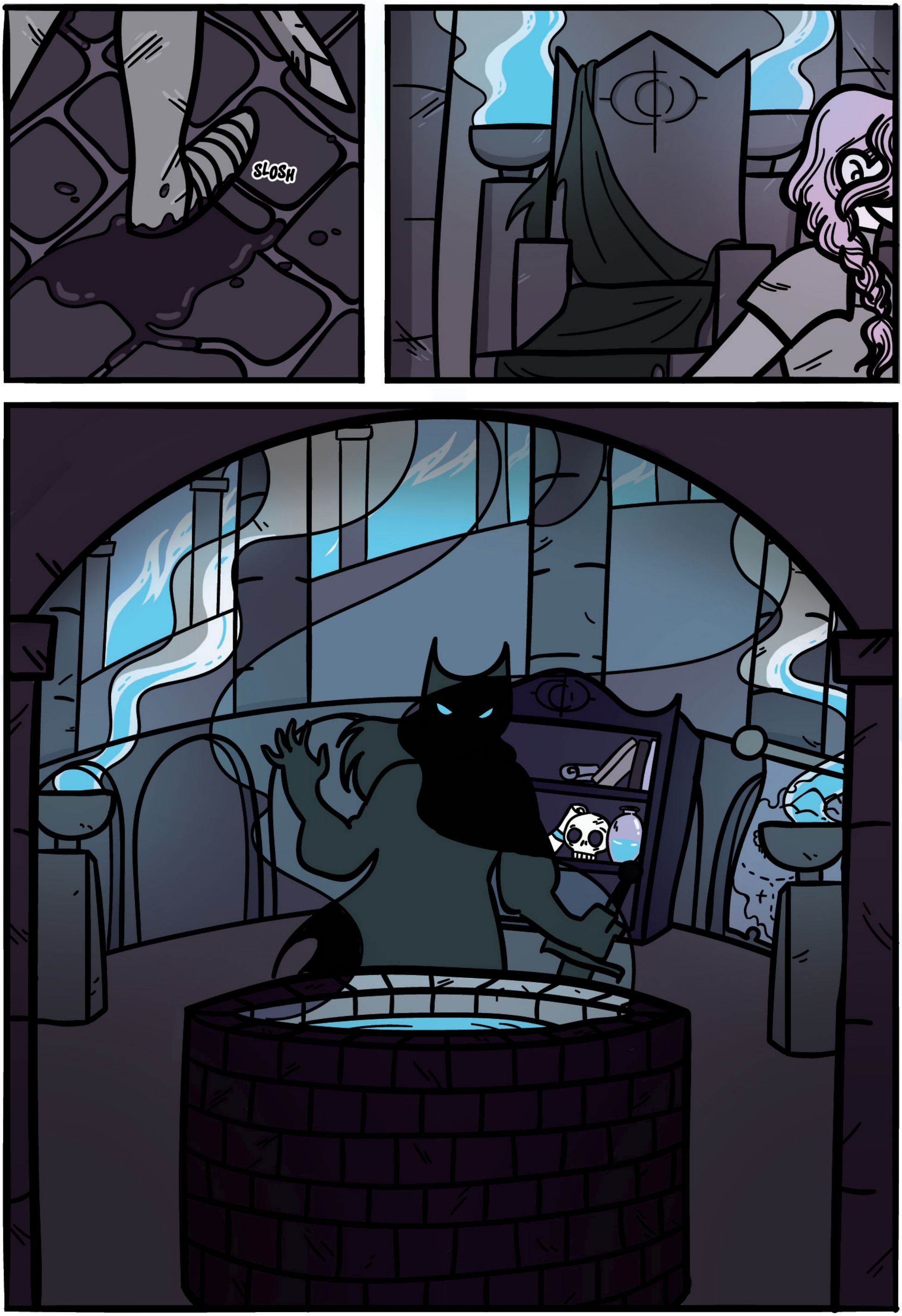

AHEM.
CLOMP!
H'UP!
WELL, BLOODY GOOD SHOW, ADALAID.

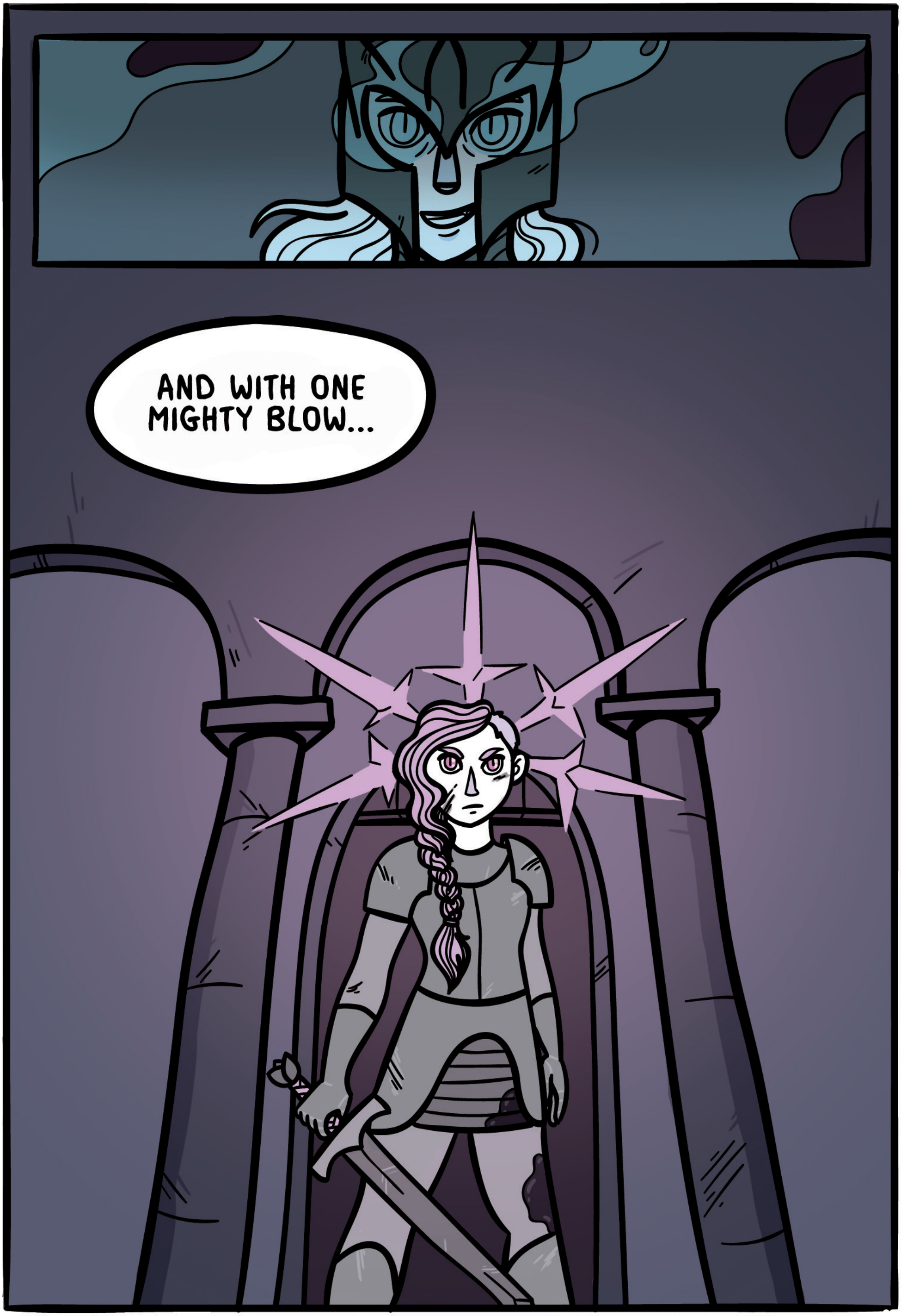
THE REST OF YOU, BACK TO WORK!!
NOW, I KNOW IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU - I MEAN, YOU GAVE THE BOY SO MANY CHANCES...
BUT THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH ONE CAN DO WITH STREET TRASH...
YOU HAVE CERTAINLY DONE THE TOWN A SERVICE. GOOD RIDDANCE I SAY! I, FOR ONE, NEVER TRUSTED HIM - EVER SINCE I FIRST LAID EYES ON HIM!
I ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD COME TO THIS END EVENTUALLY...
BLAH BLAH BLAH...


SHE WASN'T THE FIRST...
...BUT SHE WAS THE BEST.

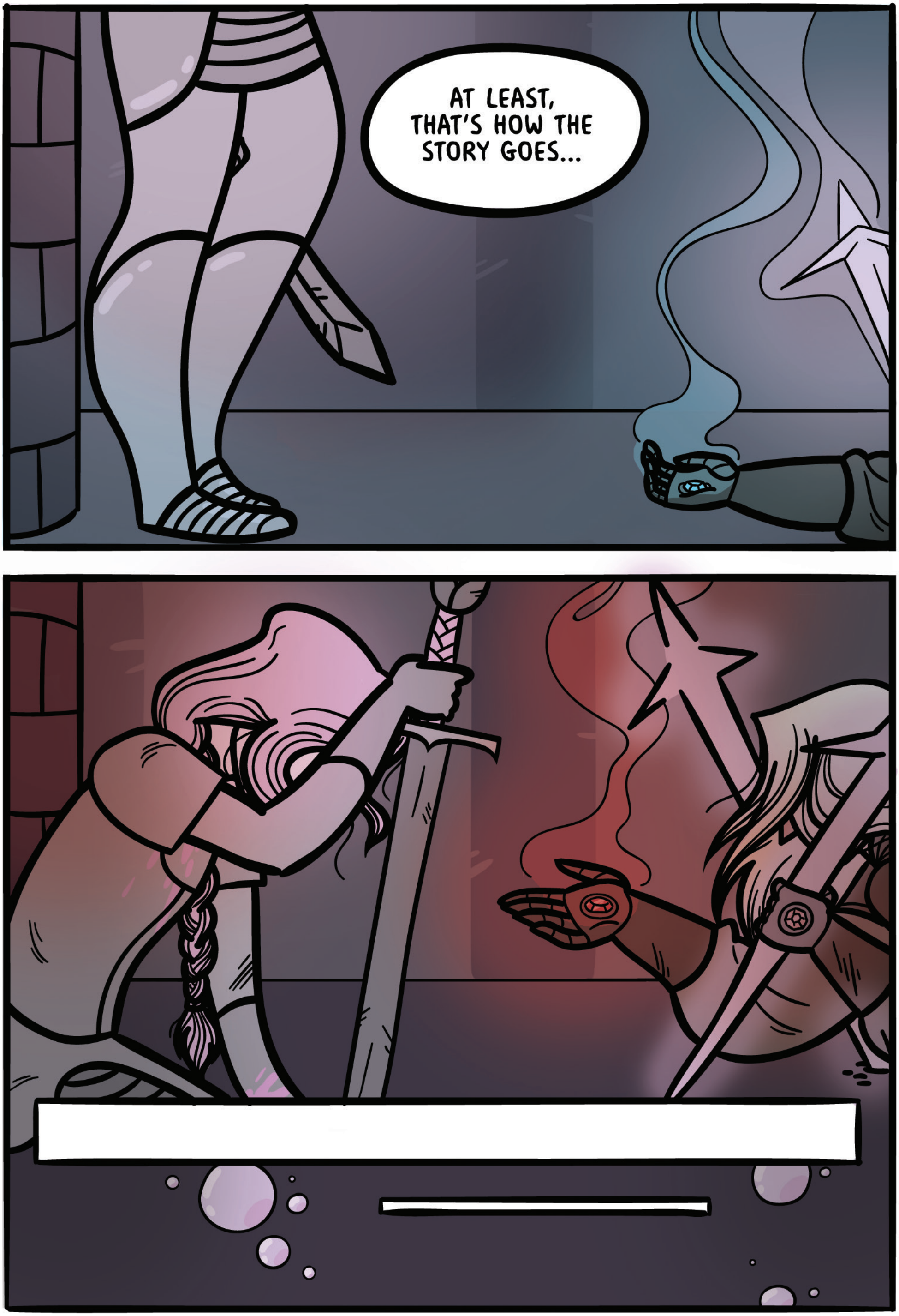

SHE SAW EVIL...
AND STEPPED FORWARD TO MEET IT.

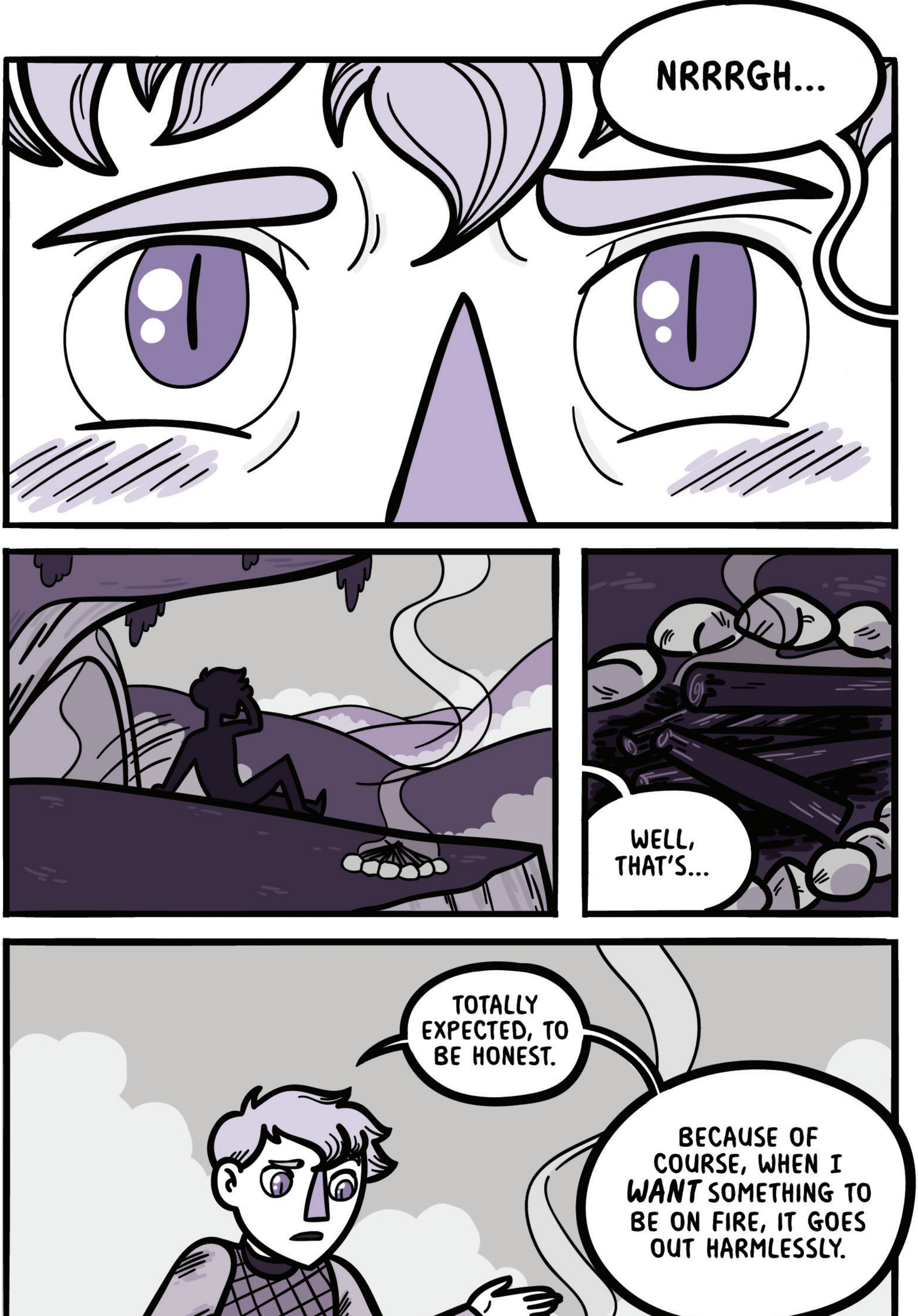

UNYIELDING AND RIGHTEOUS,
SHE SET OUT TO FREE THE LAND FROM IT'S GRASP.


SLOSH

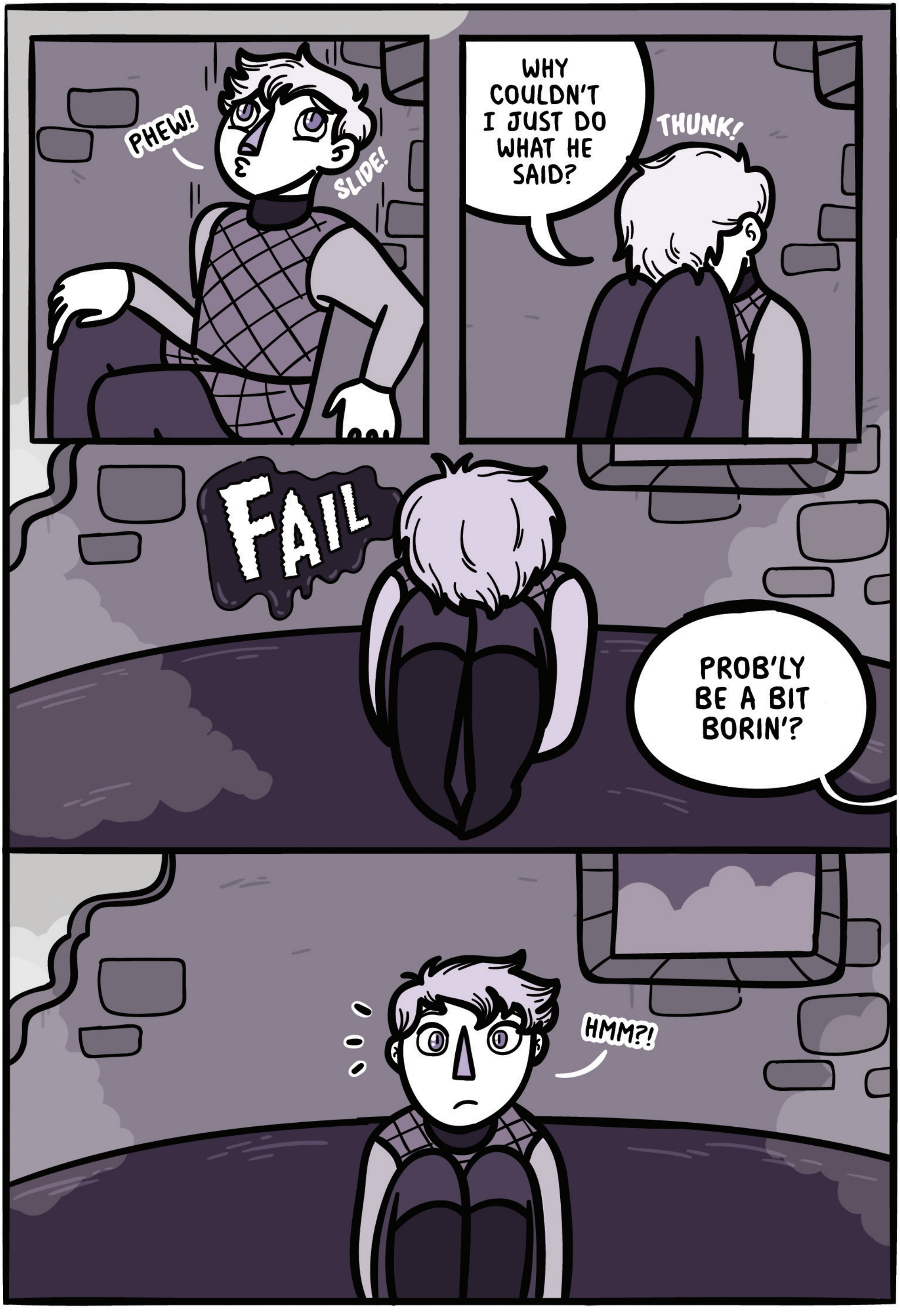

AND WITH ONE MIGHTY BLOW...

SHE STRUCK DOWN AN OVERLORD.
ROOOAAR!!!


AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES...


NRRRGH...
WELL, THAT'S...
TOTALLY EXPECTED, TO BE HONEST.
BECAUSE OF COURSE, WHEN I *WANT* SOMETHING TO BE ON FIRE, IT GOES OUT HARMLESSLY.

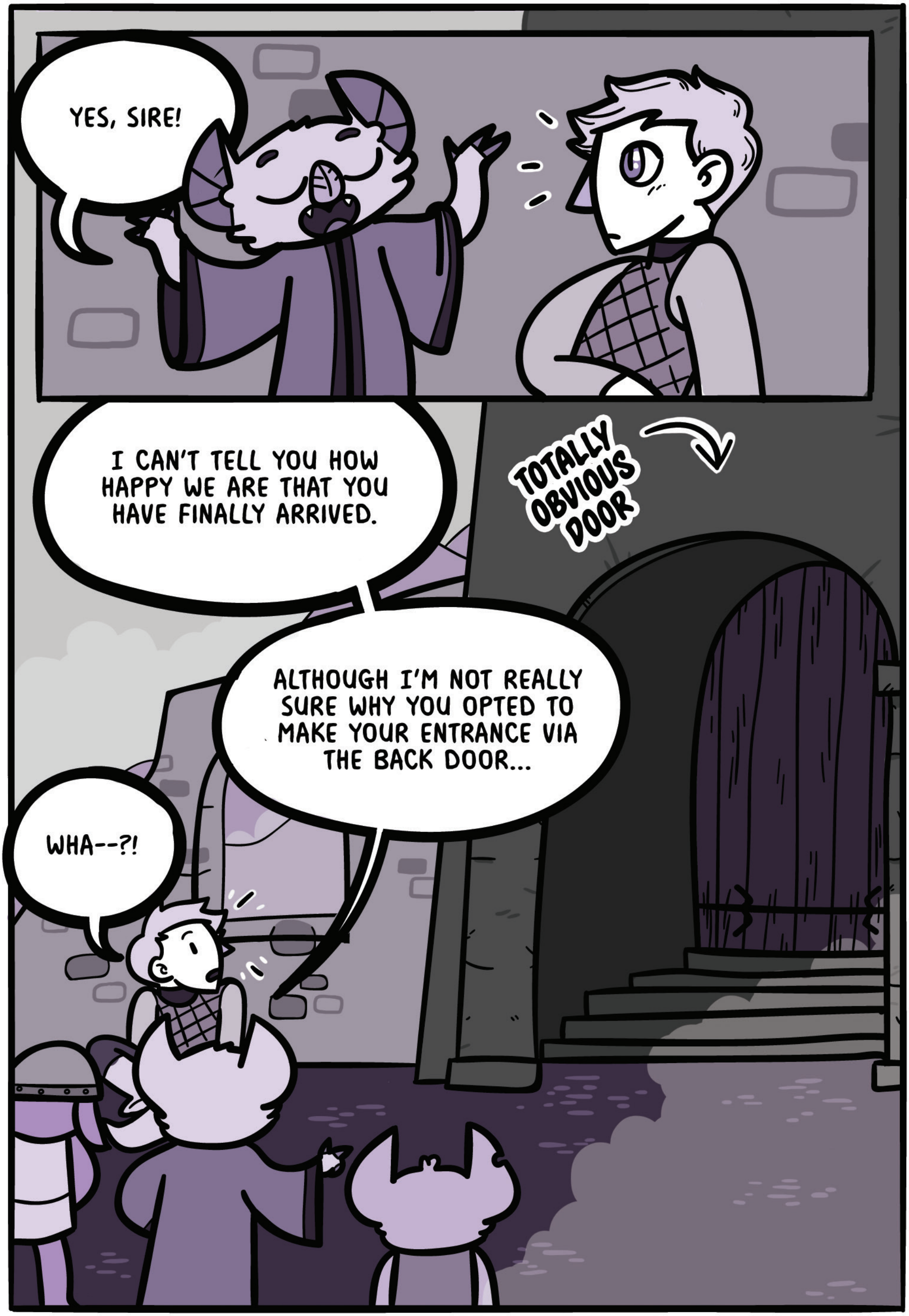
YOU KNOW, THIS IS PROBABLY THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE ACTUALLY EVER DONE.
I MEAN, I MIGHT DIE OUT HERE!
OH GODS. I'M GOING TO DIE OUT HERE.


PHEW!
SLIDE!
WHY COULDN'T I JUST DO WHAT HE SAID?
THUNK!
FAIL
PROB'LY BE A BIT BORIN'?
HMM?!

WELL, THAT'S JUST--!
YOU ARE THE WORST AT SNEAKING! YOU KNOW THAT, GROG?
SORRY.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I CAN'T EVEN, RIGHT NOW.
ANYWAY-
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!!
I--
YAHAHAAAAAGH!!!

NYAAH!!
AARGH!
YAARG!
AAAARGH...
ARE YOU QUITE FINISHED?
???
UHH... IS HE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THAT NOISE?

AHEM! NOW THEN...
BOW!
WELCOME, NEW MASTER - WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW.
I AM GIBBET --
HEAD OF THE MINION HORDE AND YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT.
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING
SORT OF. WHAT THE
SER-- SERVANT?!


YES, SIRE!
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY WE ARE THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED.
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHY YOU OPTED TO MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE VIA THE BACK DOOR...
WHA--?!
TOTALLY OBVIOUS DOOR

WAIT...
NEW MASTER? WHAT...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WELL, NOT OFFICIALLY. THE WELL AND THE THRONE AND THE GAUNTLET WILL HAVE TO DECIDE THAT.
BUT I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT YOU, SIRE.
!
SEE, THERE! GOOD SIGN, GOOD SIGN.
AND IN WE GO!
NO, WAIT!
HANG ON! W--
SLAM!!

...WHAT THE HELL?
AHEM.
FRESH MEAT!
NEW MASTER

AHEM!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER
EEP!
SMOOTH.
SHUT IT!
SILENCE...
GROG! IF YOU WOULD, BRING OUT THE GAUNTLET OF EVIL!

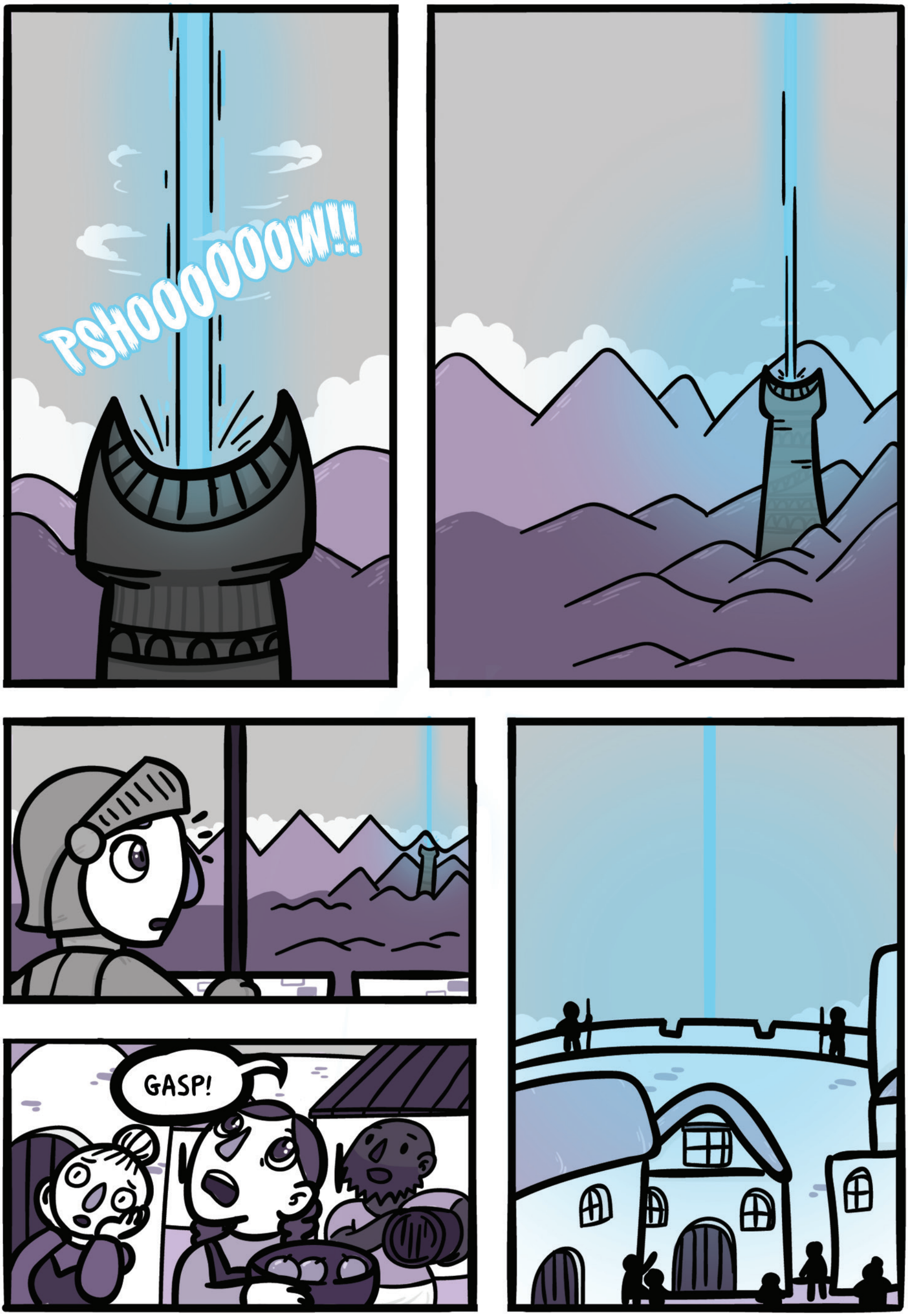
THE WHAT? LISTEN, I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE OR ANYTHING, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ME THEN MAYBE WE CAN SKIP THE "TORTURE BY EVIL GAUNTLET" PART?
IF YOU WILL, SIRE.

UM...
...
UMM...
YANK!
SHINK!
WOOOOOOOOSH!!

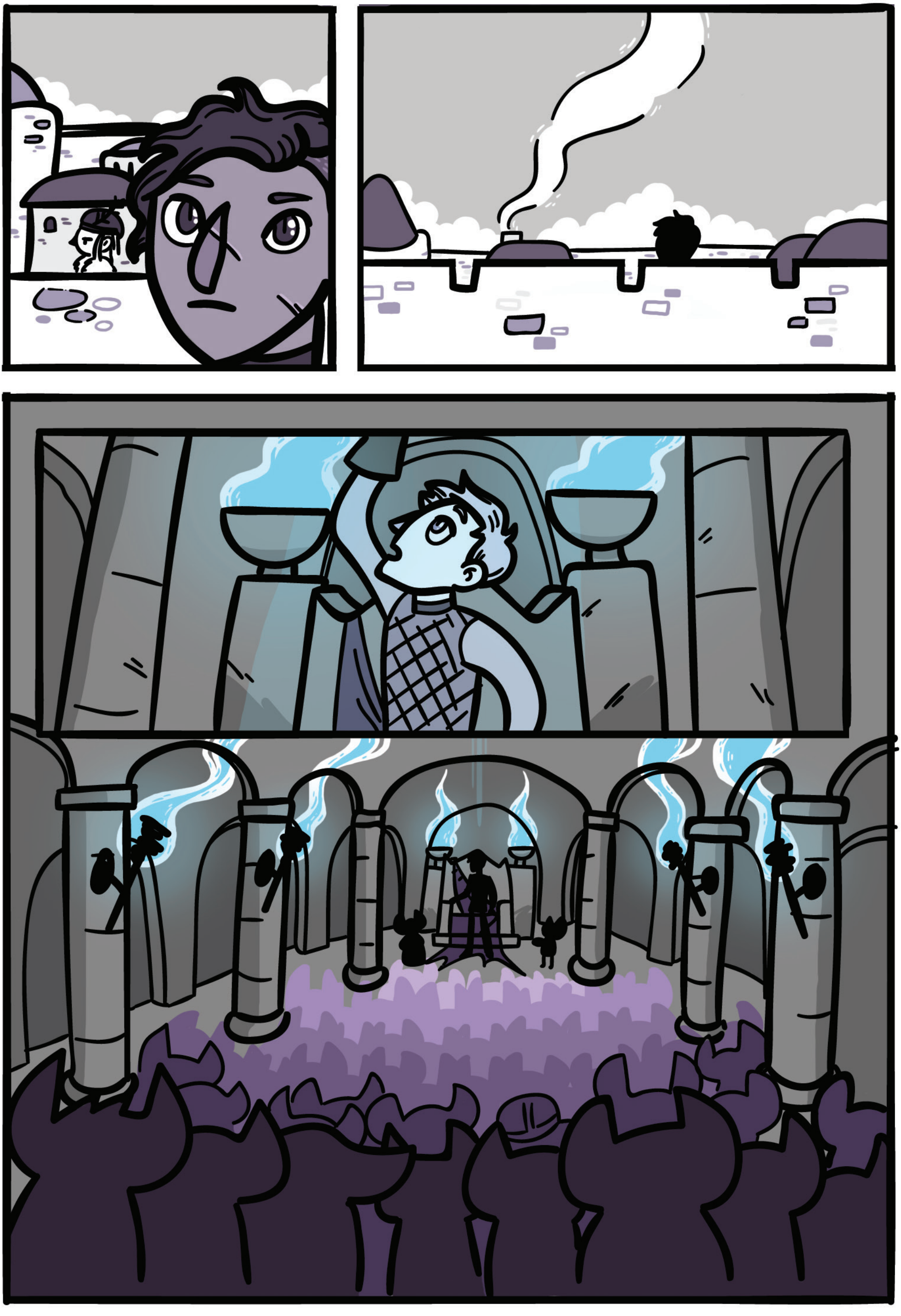
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOo!!
HMM, YES?
I THINK WE CAN TAKE THAT AS A YES!
LET'S SEE WHAT THE TOWER THINKS.
SIRE?

WOW...
THAT'S...
WOOOOOMM!

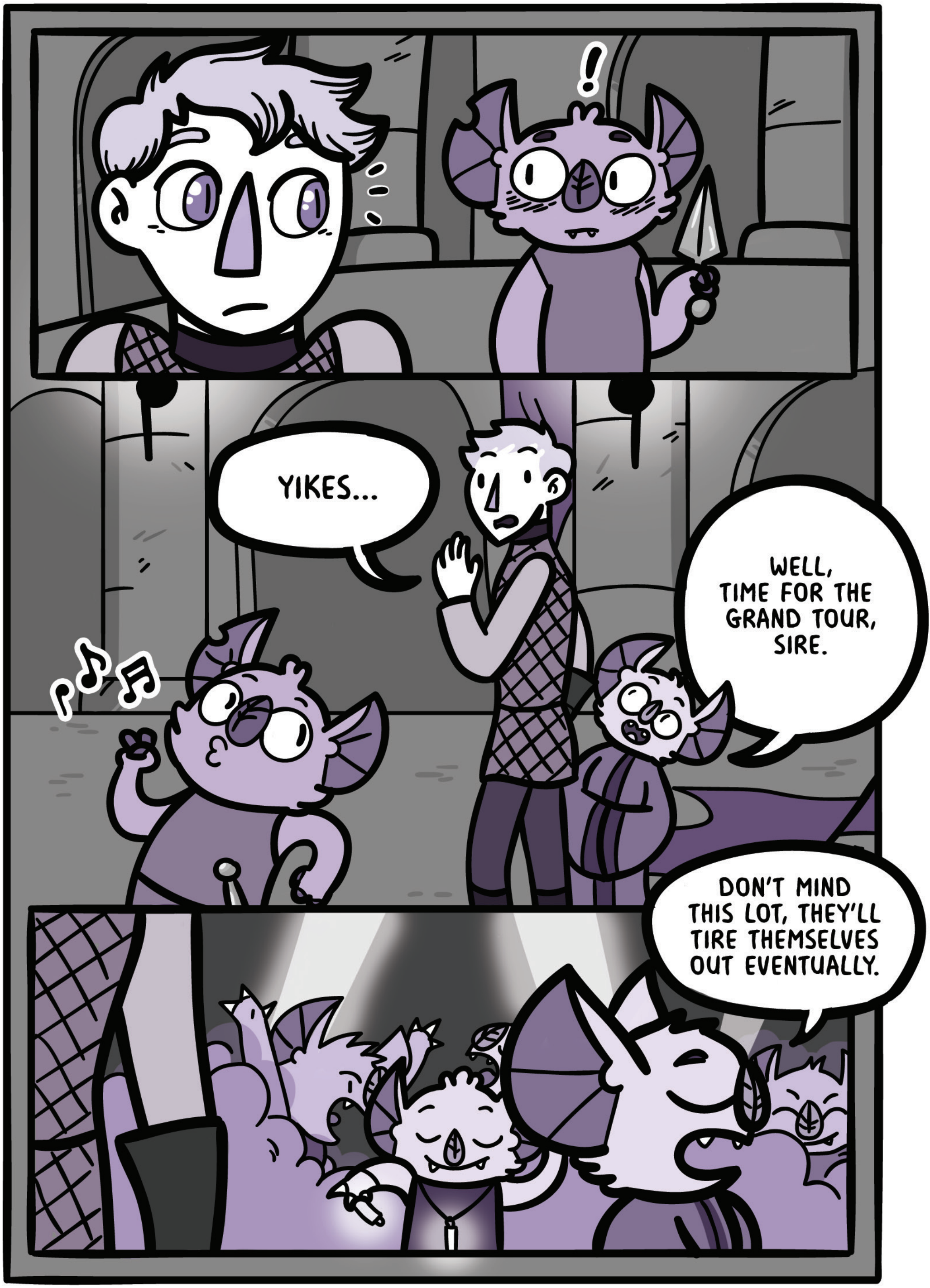
WOOOOOOOSH!

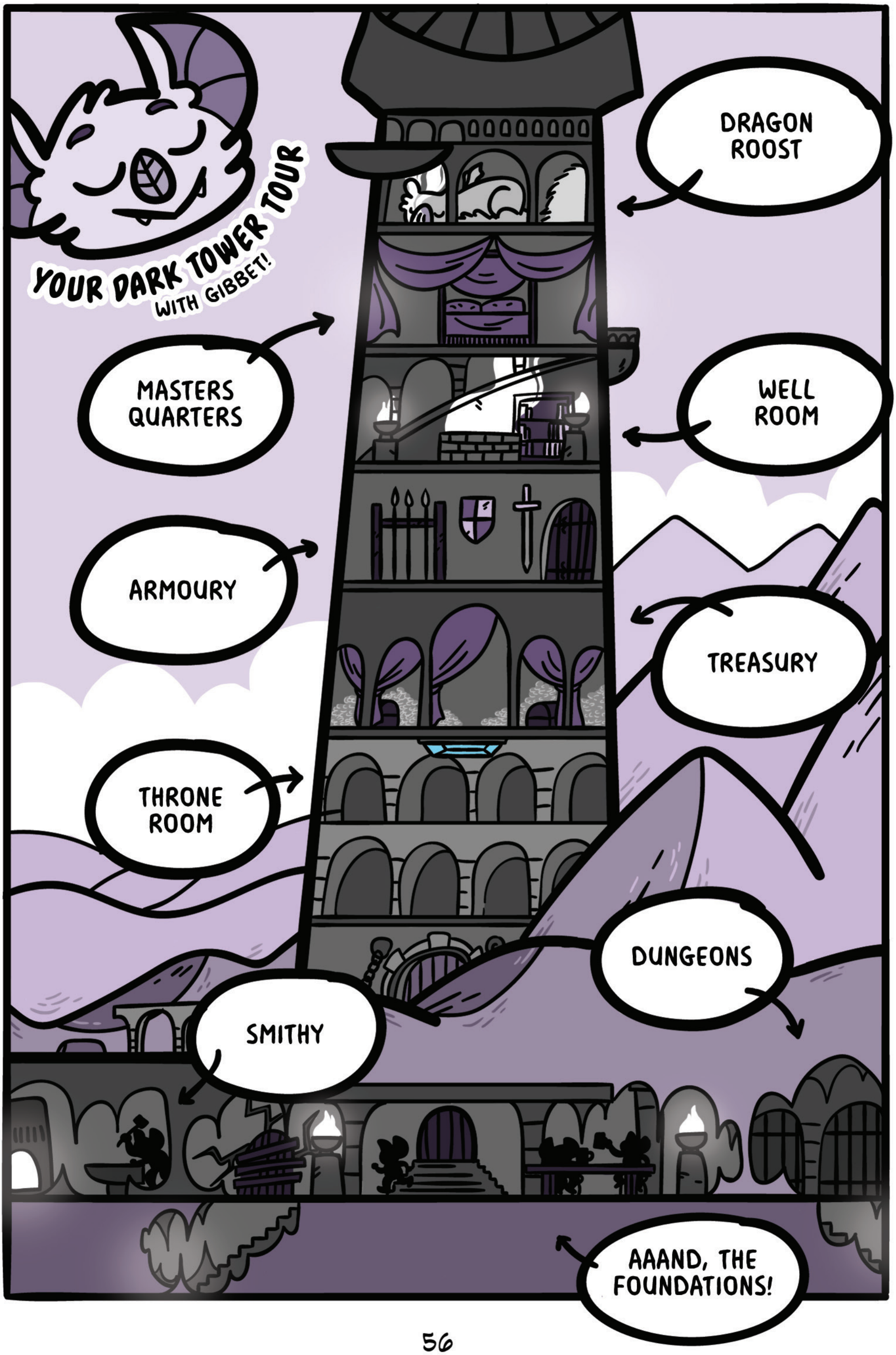

PSHOOOOOOOW!!
GASP!

EEEEEEEVIL...
IVOR, CALL OUT THE GUARD AND SUMMON OUR MOST ILLUSTRIOUS HEROES TO THE TOWN HALL IMMEDIATELY!
SHINK!
IT SEEMS EVIL MAY HAVE ONCE AGAIN RETURNED!
SIR.



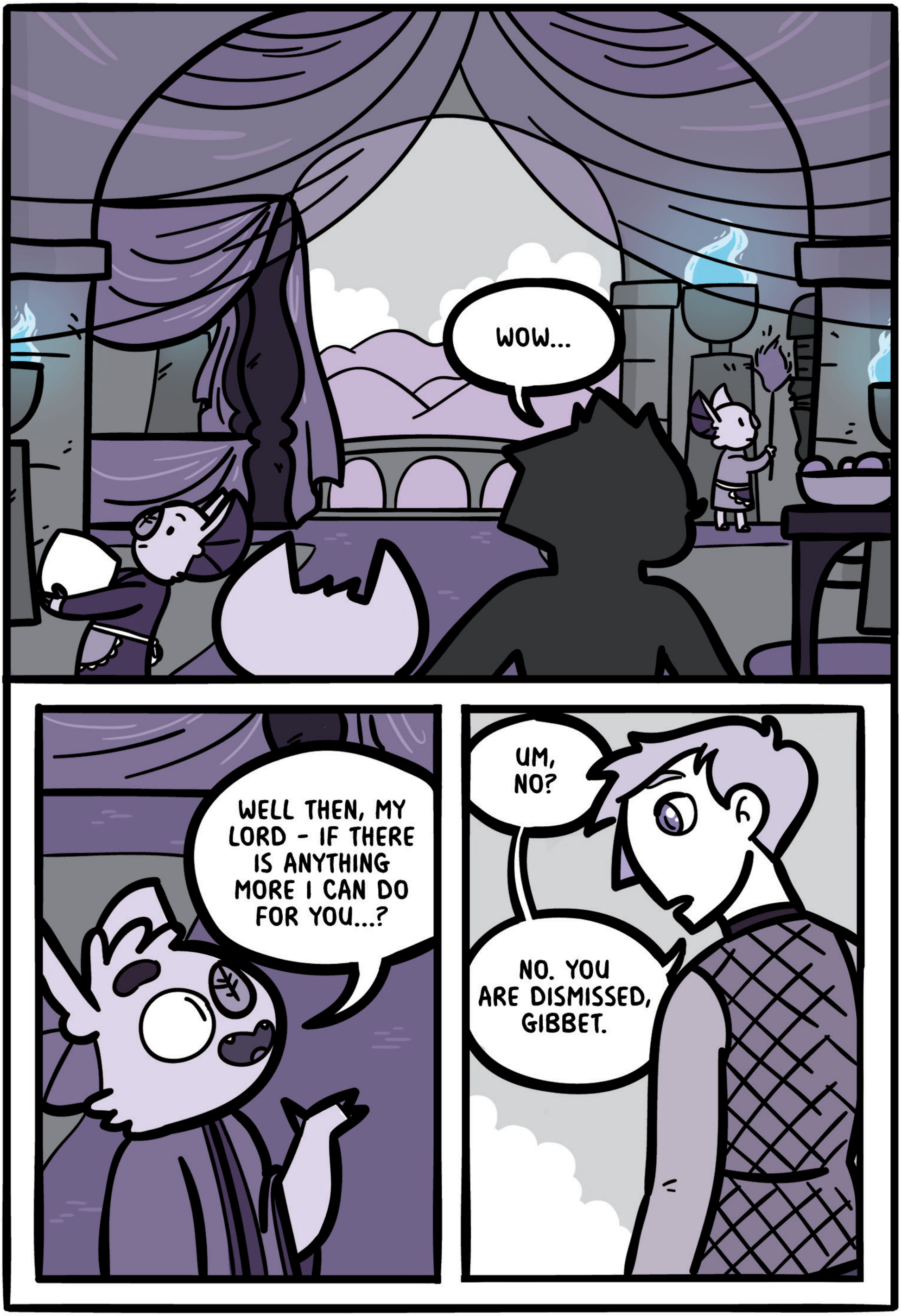
EXCELLENT! JUST EXCELLENT! THE TOWER HAS ACCEPTED YOU AS OUR NEW MASTER, SIRE.
WAIT, WHAT?! YOUR NEW MASTER? BUT I'M...
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT EXACTLY A HERO...
MAYBE I'M...
THANK THE GODS, TOO - IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PAIN TO BURY ANOTHER CANDIDATE.


!
YIKES...
WELL, TIME FOR THE GRAND TOUR, SIRE.
DON'T MIND THIS LOT, THEY'LL TIRE THEMSELVES OUT EVENTUALLY.


YOUR DARK TOWER TOUR
WITH GIBBET!
DRAGON ROOST
MASTERS QUARTERS
WELL ROOM
ARMOURY
TREASURY
THRONE ROOM
DUNGEONS
SMITHY
AAAND, THE FOUNDATIONS!

MOVING ON...
UH, GIBBET... WHAT'S BEHIND THAT CREEPY LOOKING DOOR? WHY DOES IT LOOK SO... MESSED UP?
IT'S QUITE THE CONUNDRUM, ACTUALLY, SIRE. THAT DOORWAY IS ONE OF THE MANY THAT LEAD TO THE TOWER'S FOUNDATIONS. WE USED TO USE IT AS AN EXTENSION OF THE MINION HALLS FOR BARFIGHTS, ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS-*DEATH*, OFFENSIVE CROSS-STITCH CLASSES ETC, ETC.
BUT OF LATE, THESE STRANGE VOLCANIC CRACKS HAVE BEEN APPEARING - AND SEVERAL OF OUR EXCAVATION MINIONS HAVE REPORTED LAVA FLOWS AND TUNNELS FURTHER IN.

THERE'S LAVA DOWN THERE? IS THAT... SAFE?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL SAFE! BUT THE TOWER IS STABLE ENOUGH FOR NOW.
WE LOSE MINIONS OCCASIONALLY DOWN THERE, BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN SO VOLATILE RECENTLY THAT LAST WEEK AN ENTIRE TEAM DISAPPEARED!
THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED TO SEAL UP THE ENTRANCES.
BUT NOW YOU'RE HERE MY LORD, WE'LL HAVE THIS TOWER BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY IN NO TIME!


WOW...
WELL THEN, MY LORD - IF THERE IS ANYTHING MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU...?
UM, NO?
NO. YOU ARE DISMISSED, GIBBET.

SWING!
'KAY, THANKS, BYEEE...
OH MY GODS, OH MY GODS, OH MY GODS!! WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?!
I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!
BACK TO...
BACK TO...
BACK TO WHAT?

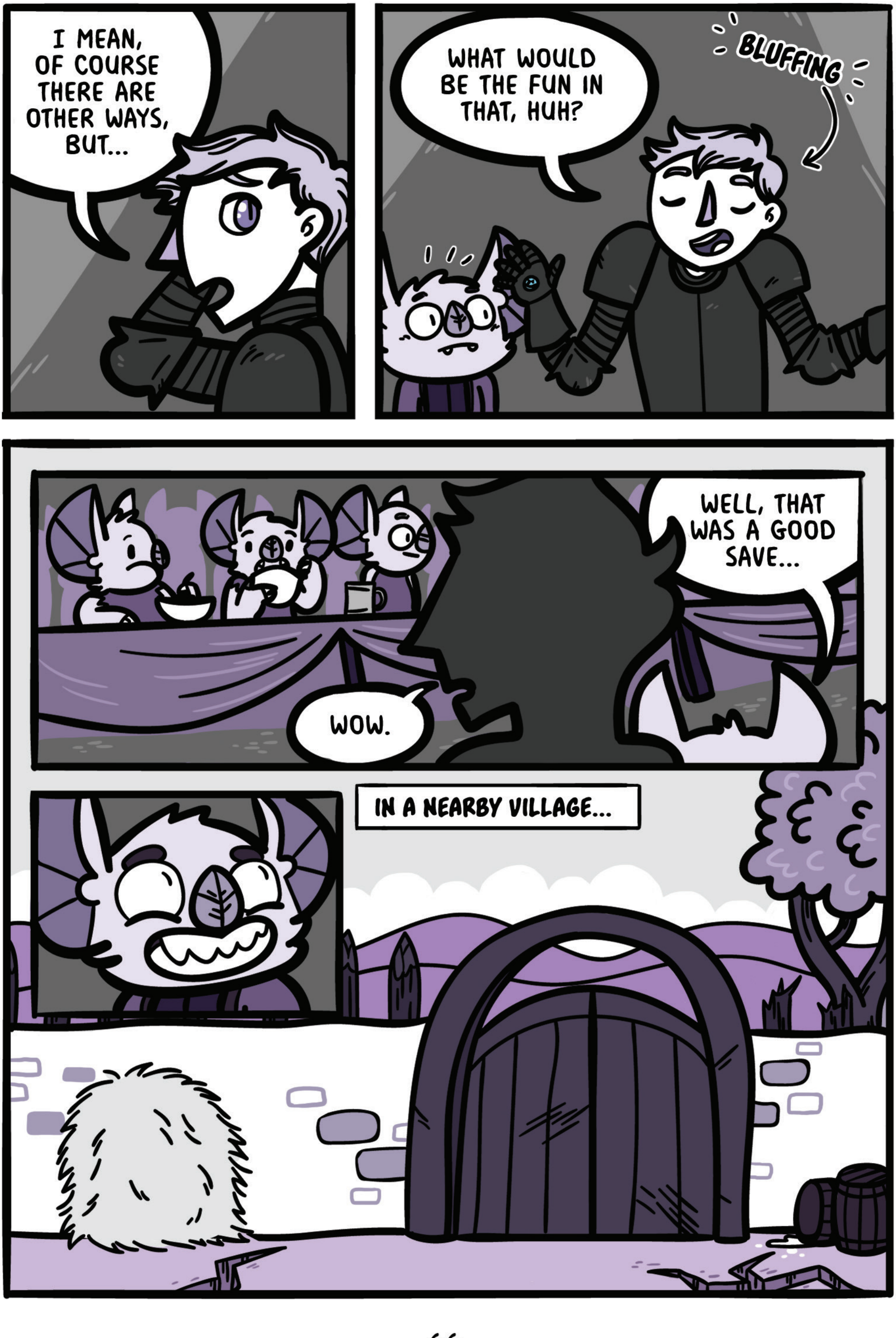
I SAID IT MYSELF. I DON'T BELONG THERE.
AND IF I DON'T BELONG THERE, MAYBE I CAN HERE...
I MEAN, HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
RIGHT?
MAYBE...

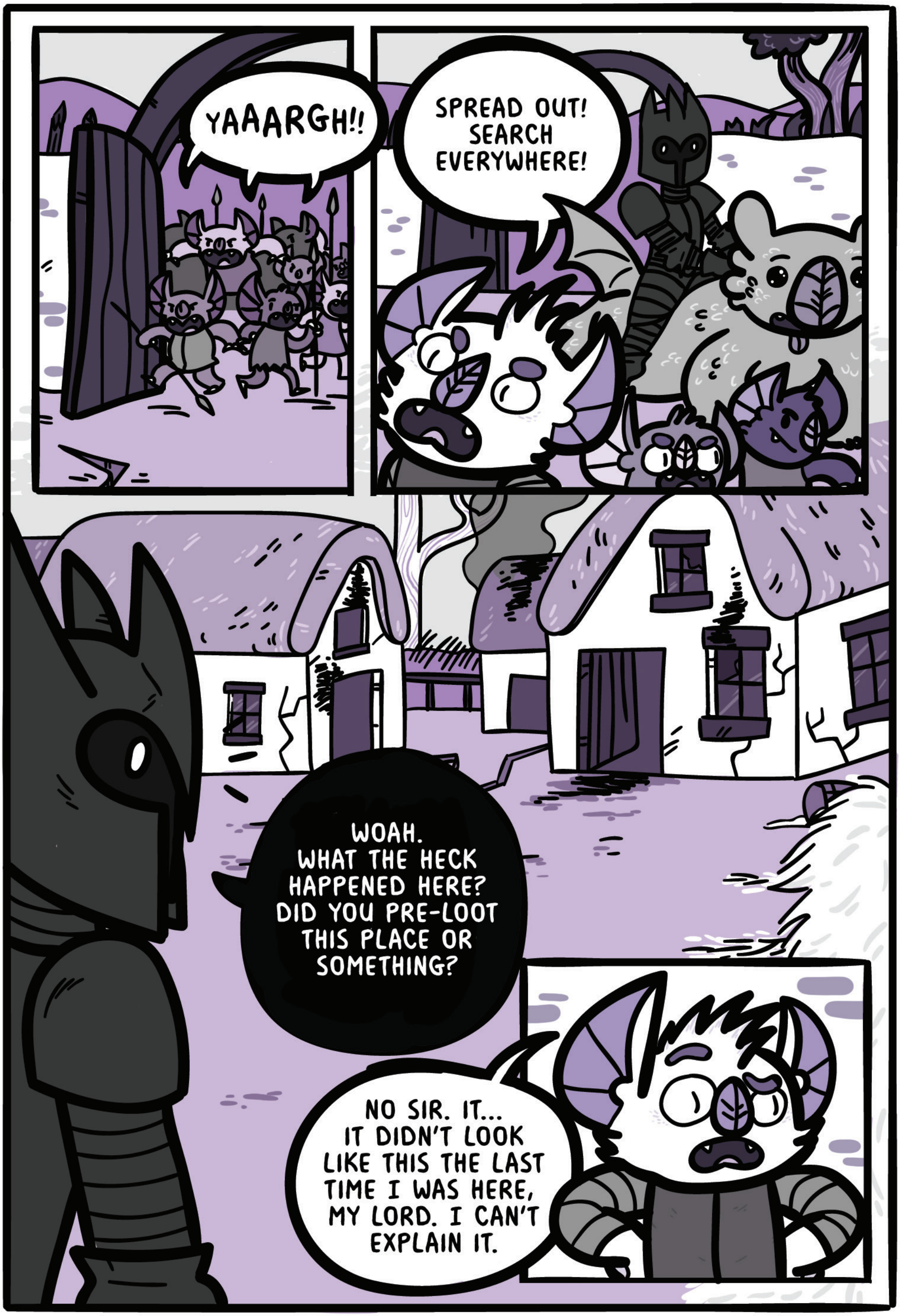
MORNING MASTER!
TIME TO GET DOWN TO SCHEMING!
SO THIS...
WASN'T A DREAM...

...WAS IT?
SORRY ABOUT THE TABLE, SIRE.
WE'LL HAVE THE LEGS EXTENDED AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE SUPPLIES.
THIS FOOD IS REALLY GOOD!
WELL, WE'RE EVIL - NOT TASTELESS.

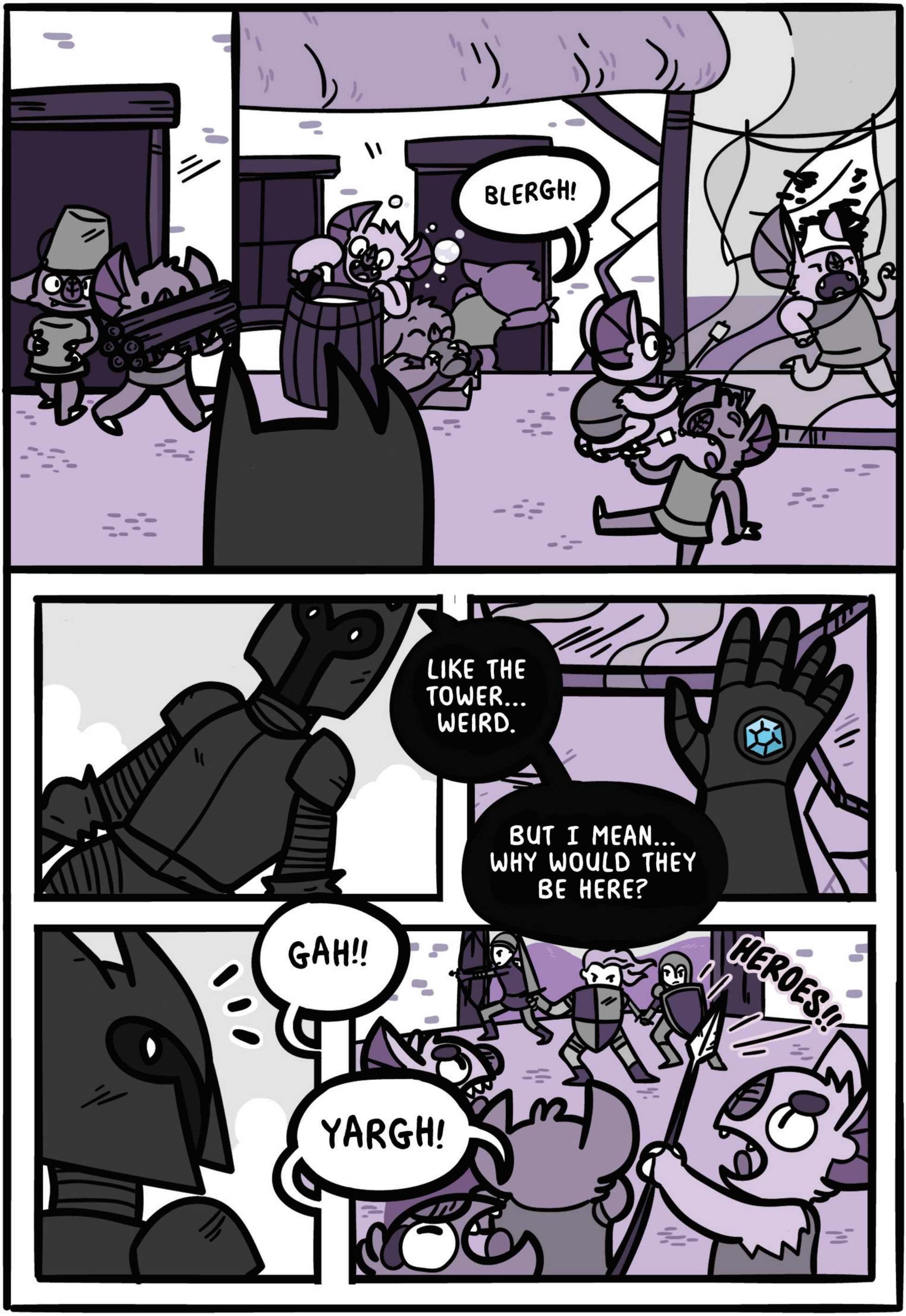
HMM?
NOW SIRE, BACK TO THE MATTER AT HAND...
SUPPLIES, MY LORD!
FOR THE REPAIR OF THE TOWER AND THE REVIVAL OF YOUR DARK DOMAIN!
UH, RIGHT - SUPPLIES! WHAT, UH, WHAT SUPPLIES DO WE NEED, EXACTLY?
A BETTER QUESTION, MY LORD, IS: WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THEM?
FORTUNATELY, GRUBBINS HERE HAS THE PERFECT LITTLE TOWN PICKED OUT!

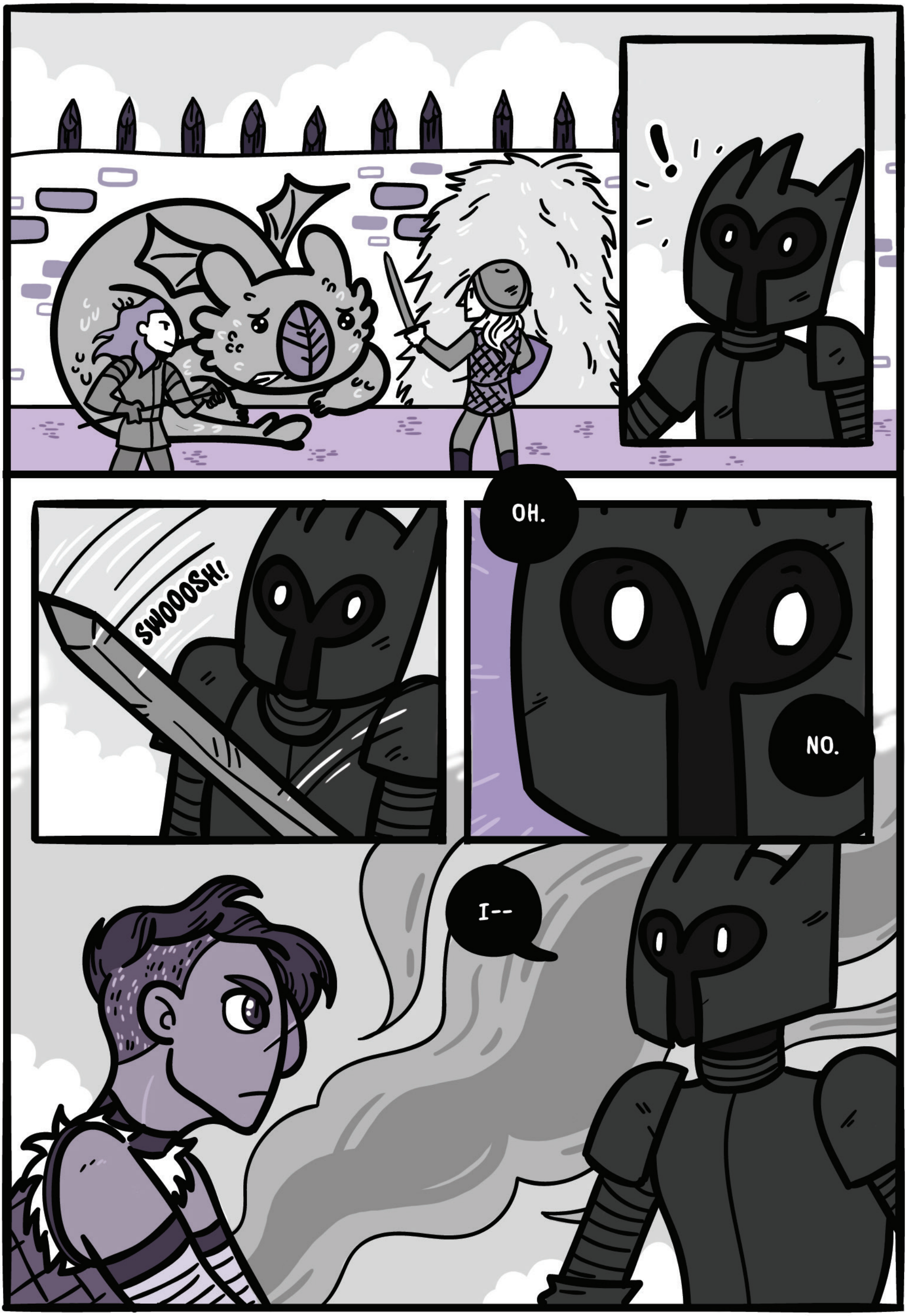
PLENTY OF RESOURCES, NO PESKY HEROES...
JUST THE THING TO START YOUR EVIL PLANS. NOT TO MENTION...
THE HORDE HAVEN'T DONE ANY PILLAGING IN QUITE SOME TIME, SO THIS WILL REALLY LIFT THEIR MURDEROUS LITTLE SPIRITS.
RIGHT... PILLAGING.
UM - ARE YOU CERTAIN THERE ISN'T ANOTHER WAY TO GET ALL THIS STUFF?
ALSO WHY IS THERE A DUCK ON THIS LIST?
SILENCE...
SLAP!

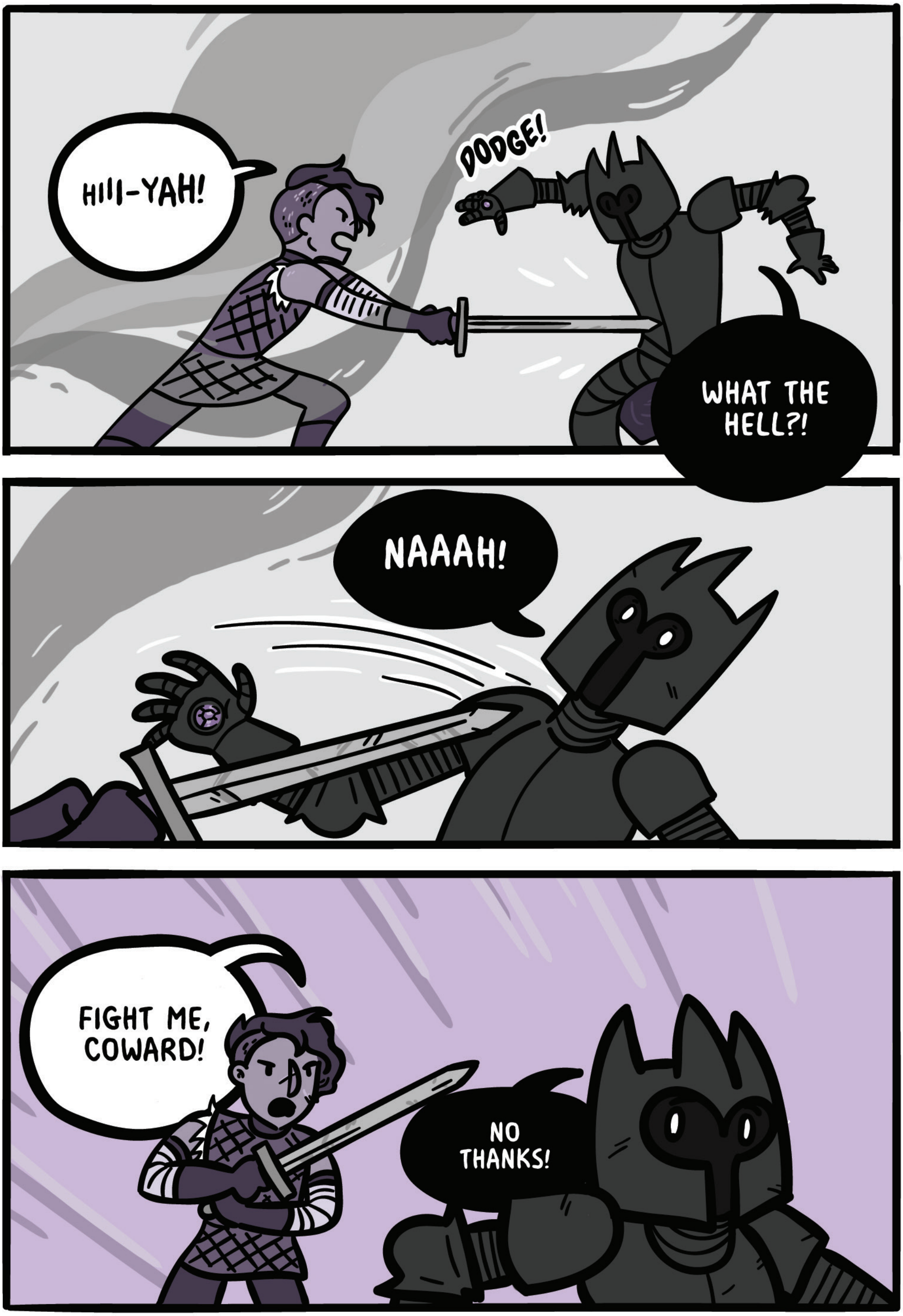

I MEAN, OF COURSE THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, BUT...
WHAT WOULD BE THE FUN IN THAT, HUH?
BLUFFING
WELL, THAT WAS A GOOD SAVE...
WOW.
IN A NEARBY VILLAGE...


YAAARGH!!
SPREAD OUT! SEARCH EVERYWHERE!
WOAH. WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED HERE? DID YOU PRE-LOOT THIS PLACE OR SOMETHING?
NO SIR. IT... IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THIS THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, MY LORD. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

FWOOOSH!
HOW SHALL WE PROCEED, MY LORD?
UH, GET WHAT WE NEED AND STAY AWAY FROM THE CRACKS IN THE GROUND IF YOU CAN. I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
VERY GOOD, SIRE.
BOBBIT! STOP STUFFING FRIGGINS INTO THAT HOLE! LITERALLY THE VERY THING...

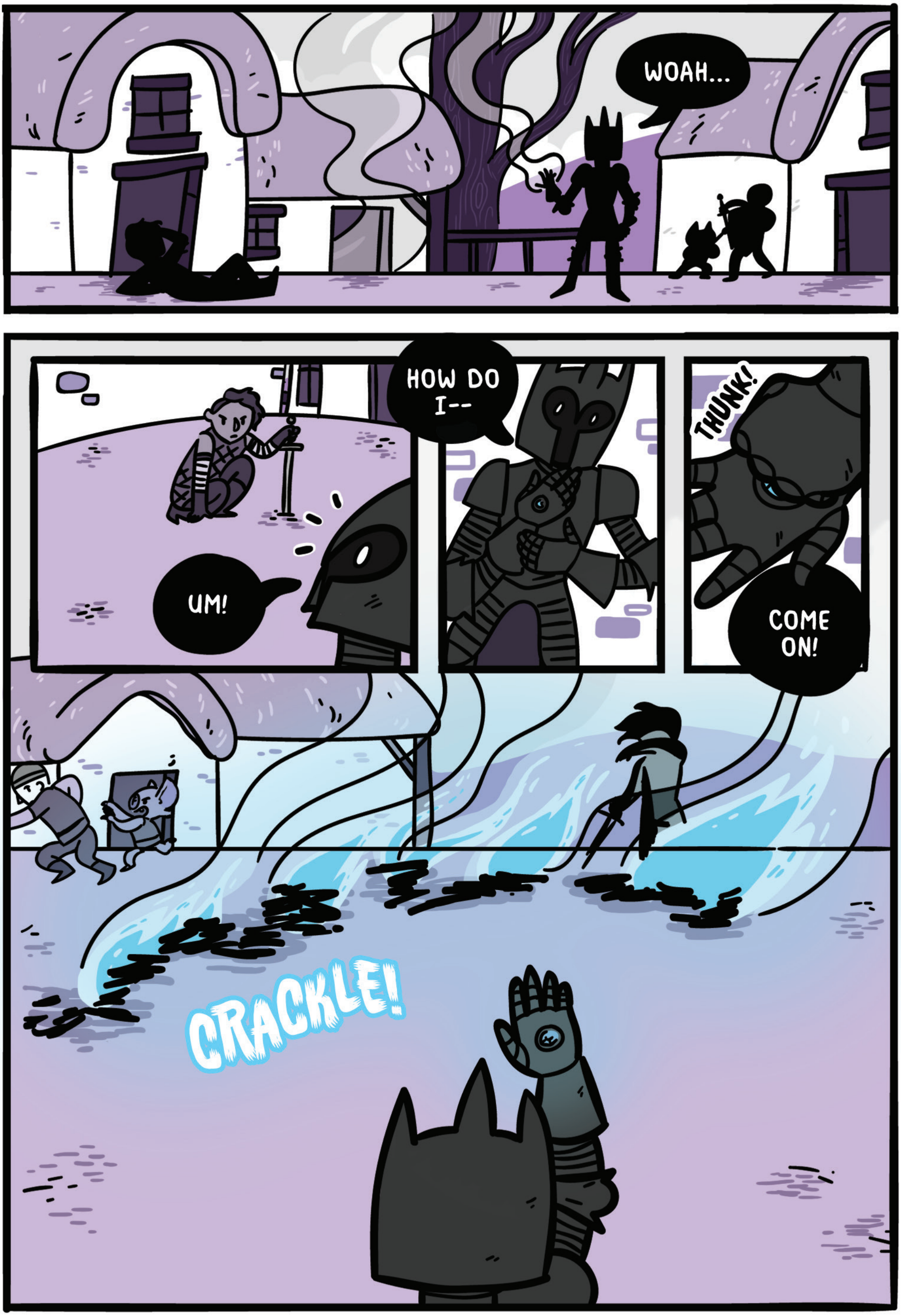

BLERGH!
LIKE THE TOWER... WEIRD.
BUT I MEAN... WHY WOULD THEY BE HERE?
GAH!!
YARGH!
HEROES!!

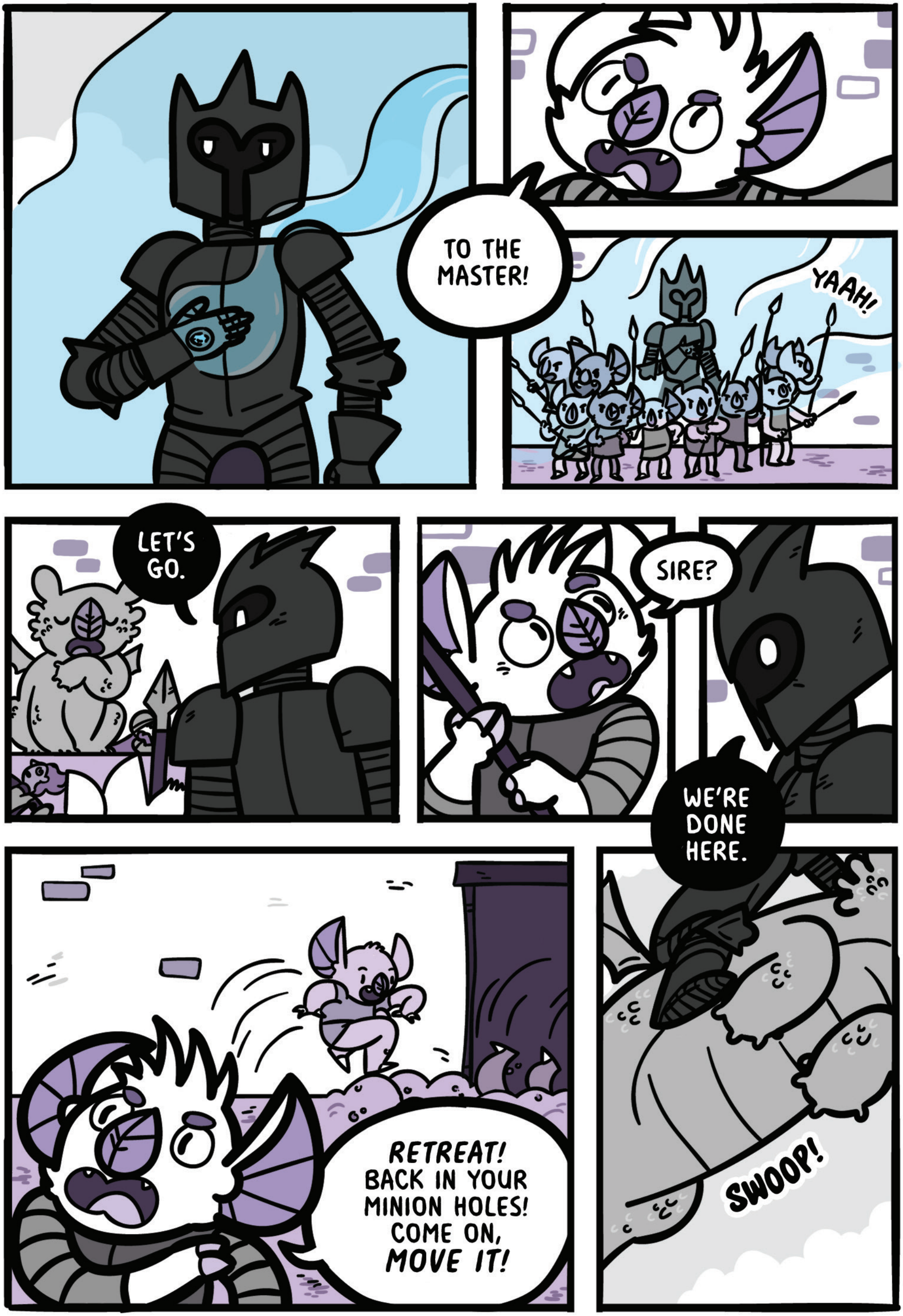

!
SWOOOSH!
OH.
NO.
I--


HI!!I-YAH!
DODGE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
NAAAH!
FIGHT ME, COWARD!
NO THANKS!

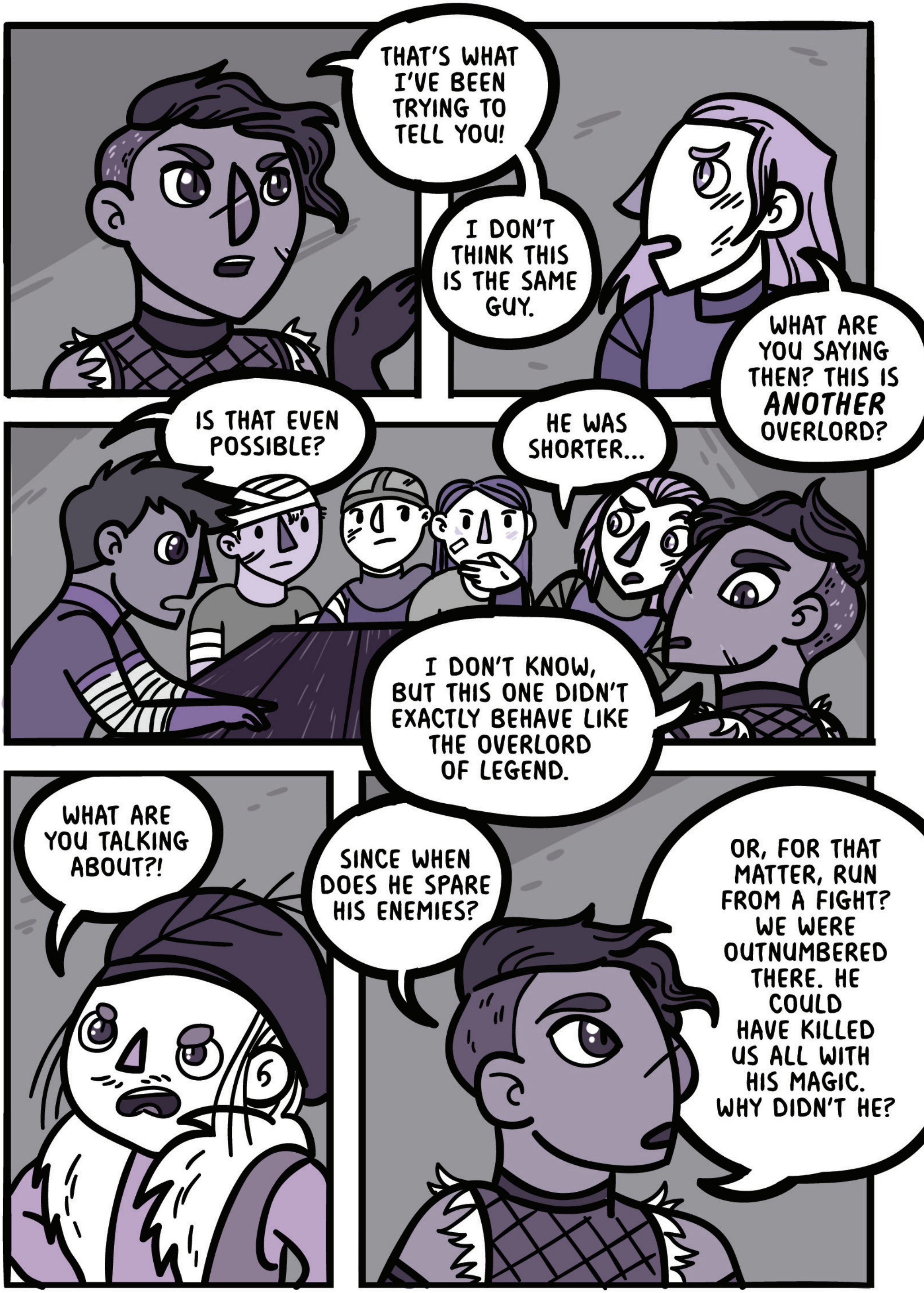
OOF!
SLAM!
ROLL
TUMBLE
YOU'LL PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THIS VILLAGE!
WE SLEW THE LAST OVERLORD, AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN! YOUR DARK REIGN WILL BE OVER BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS!!
UH, THIS WASN'T ME - I SWEAR!
I'VE LITERALLY JUST GOT HERE, IT WAS LIKE THIS WHEN I ARRIVED.

LIAR!!
LOOK--
SWOOOSH!
CLANK!
WOOOOOOM!
?!
FWOOOWF!!

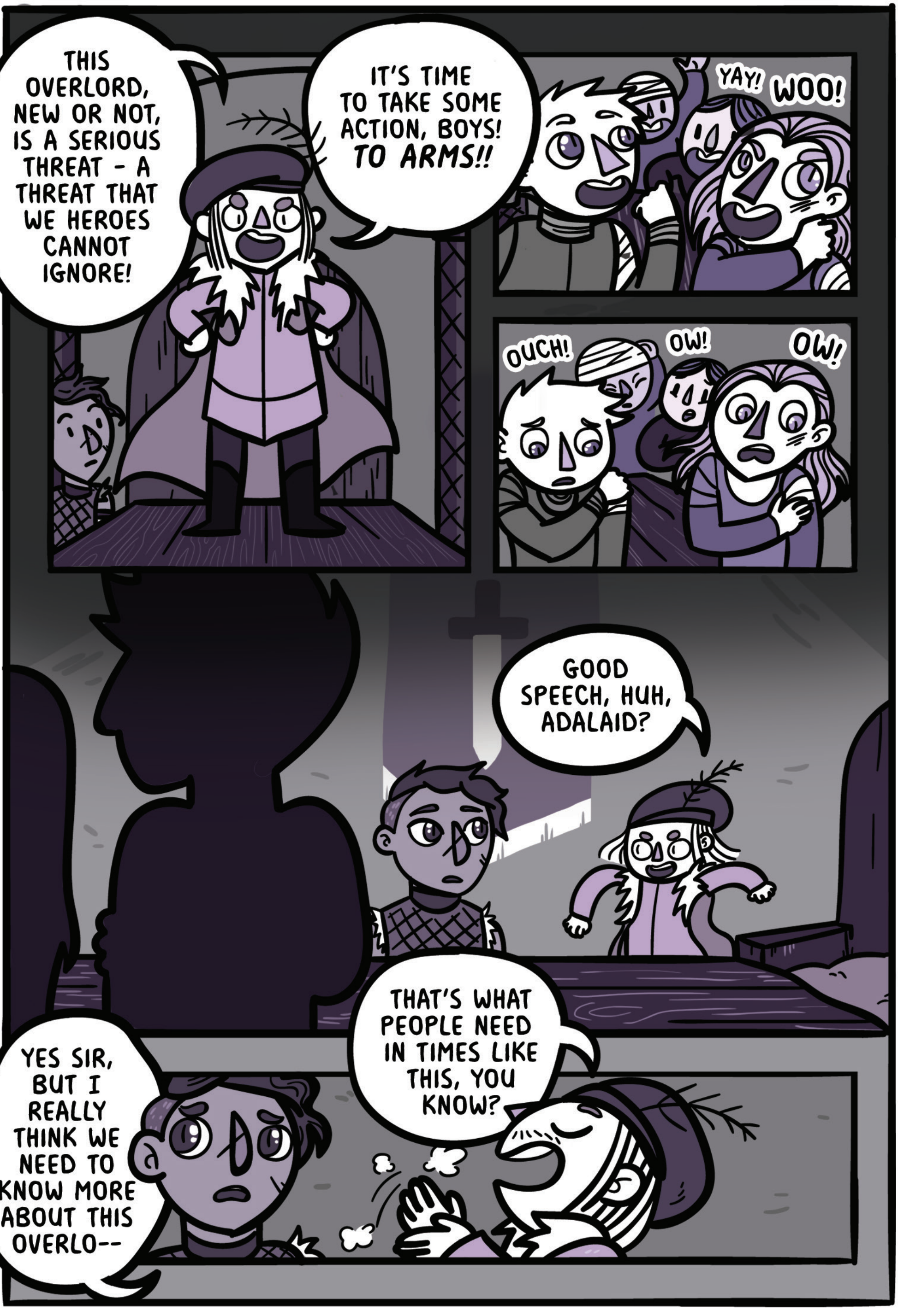

WOAH...
UM!
HOW DO I--
THUNK!
COME ON!
CRACKLE!

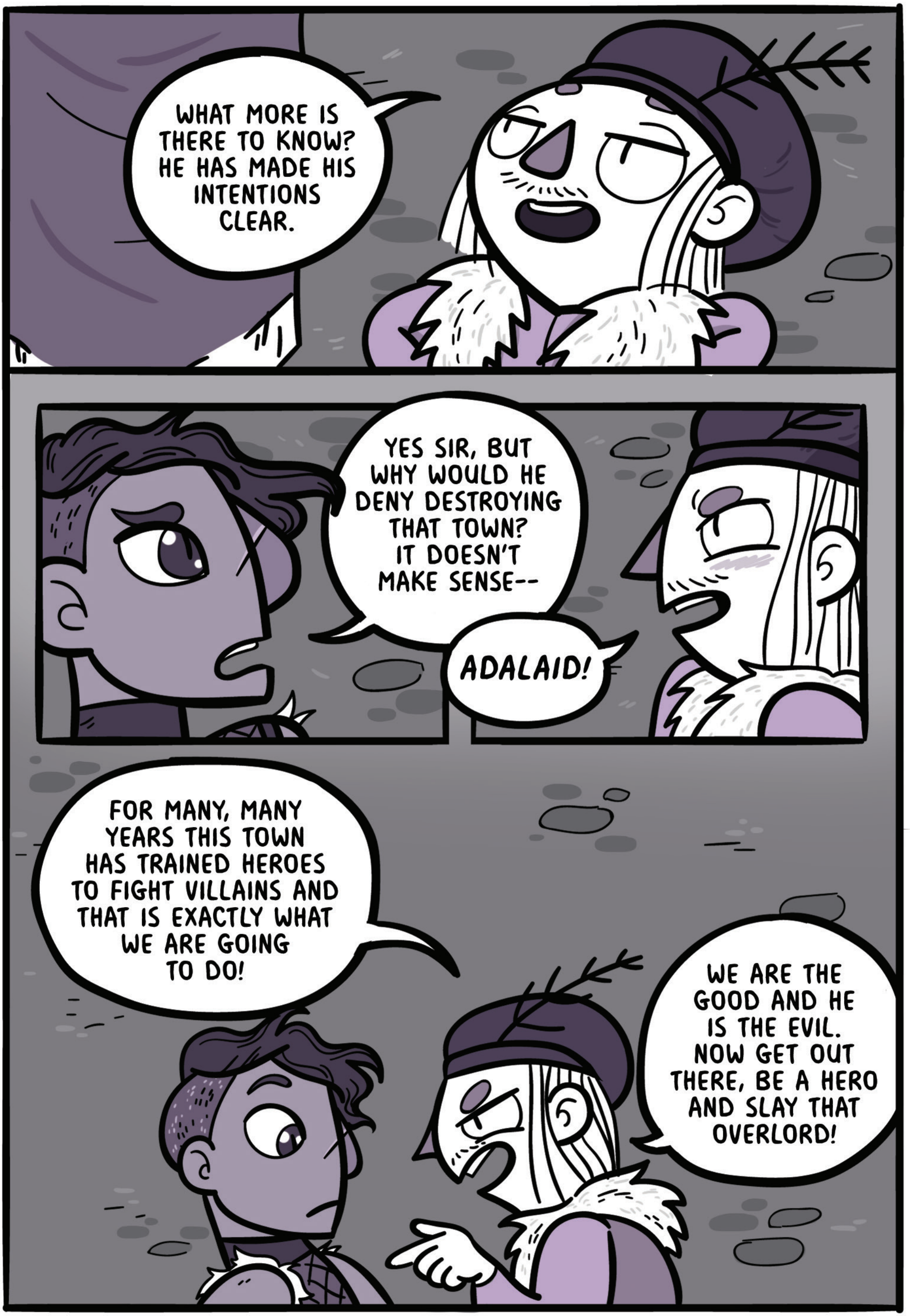

TO THE MASTER!
YAAH!
LET'S GO.
SIRE?
WE'RE DONE HERE.
RETREAT! BACK IN YOUR MINION HOLES! COME ON, MOVE IT!
SWOOP!

WOOSH!
HE'S BACK?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IMPOSSIBLE, I SAY!!


THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE SAME GUY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING THEN? THIS IS *ANOTHER* OVERLORD?
HE WAS SHORTER...
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THIS ONE DIDN'T EXACTLY BEHAVE LIKE THE OVERLORD OF LEGEND.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SINCE WHEN DOES HE SPARE HIS ENEMIES?
OR, FOR THAT MATTER, RUN FROM A FIGHT? WE WERE OUTNUMBERED THERE. HE COULD HAVE KILLED US ALL WITH HIS MAGIC. WHY DIDN'T HE?

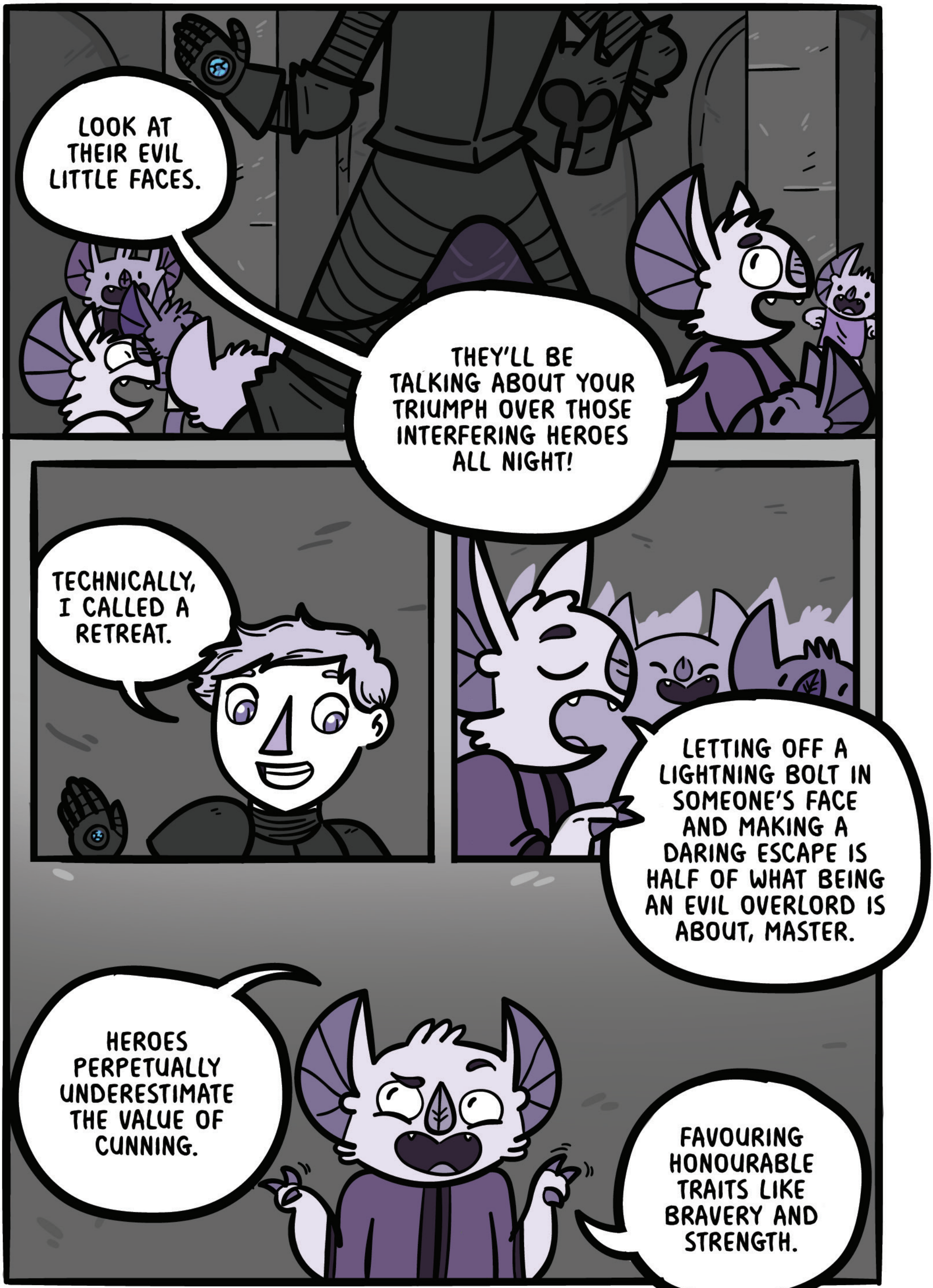
DOES THAT REALLY MATTER? WHOEVER THIS GUY IS, HE'S CLEARLY JUST AS BAD AS THE LAST OVERLORD. LOOK AT HOW QUICKLY HE MOVED TO TAKE THAT TOWN.
AND SEVERAL OF OUR SCOUTS REPORTED THAT THE OLD TOWER IN THE HILLS IS OCCUPIED AGAIN.
INDEED - SEVERAL VILLAGERS FROM THE NEIGHBOURING TOWNS HAVE SEEN LIGHTS AND CONSTRUCTION WORK THERE TOO. NOT TO MENTION THE WEIRD HOLES AND CRACKS THAT HAVE BEEN APPEARING ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE...
WELL, THEN.
I THINK OUR COURSE OF ACTION IS CLEAR.
YES, THERE CAN BE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS.
THUNK!

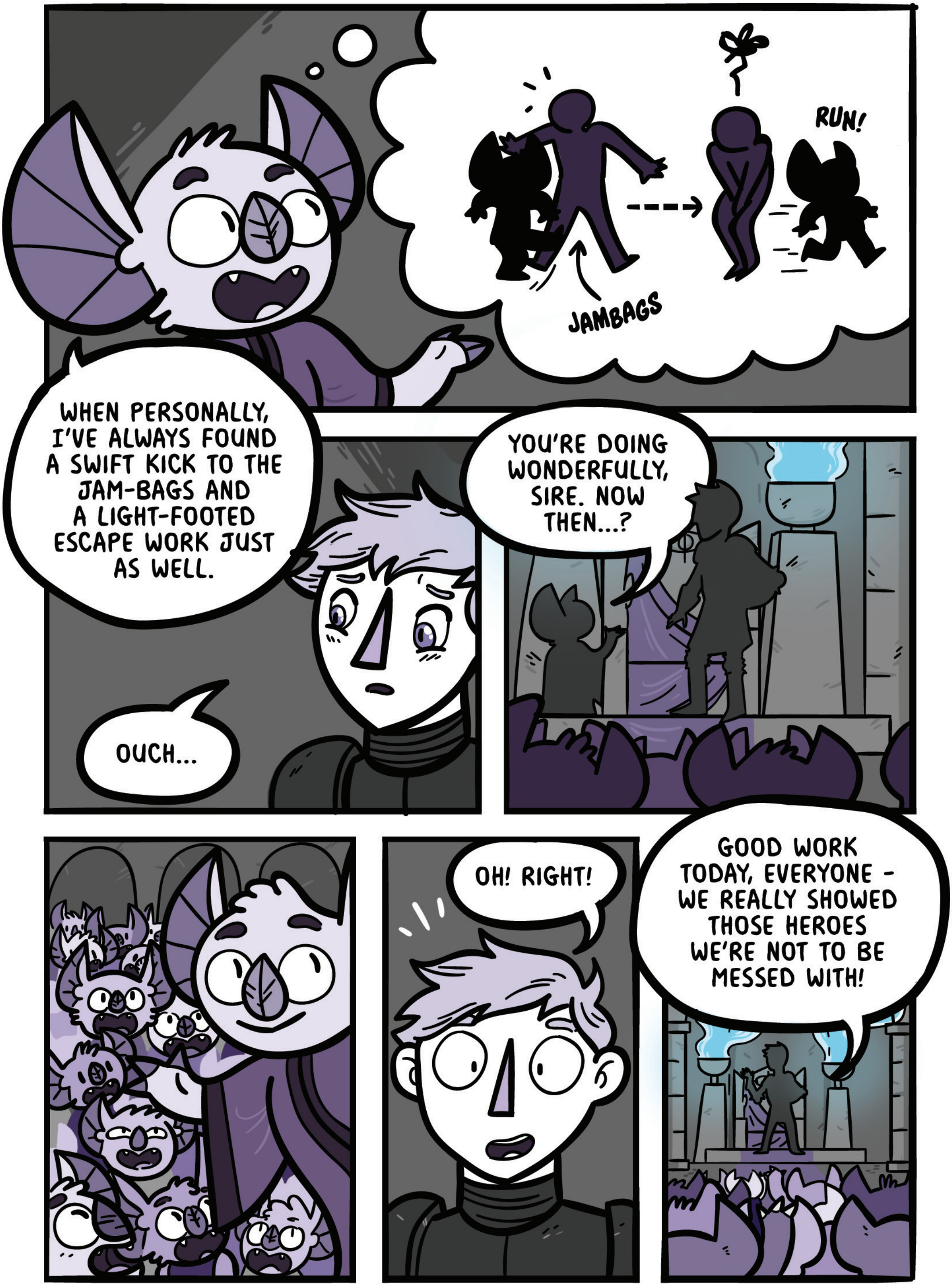

THIS OVERLORD, NEW OR NOT, IS A SERIOUS THREAT - A THREAT THAT WE HEROES CANNOT IGNORE!
IT'S TIME TO TAKE SOME ACTION, BOYS! TO ARMS!!
YAY!
WOO!
OUCH!
OW!
OW!
GOOD SPEECH, HUH, ADALAID?
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE NEED IN TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW?
YES SIR, BUT I REALLY THINK WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS OVERLO--


WHAT MORE IS THERE TO KNOW? HE HAS MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR.
YES SIR, BUT WHY WOULD HE DENY DESTROYING THAT TOWN? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--
ADALAID!
FOR MANY, MANY YEARS THIS TOWN HAS TRAINED HEROES TO FIGHT VILLAINS AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO!
WE ARE THE GOOD AND HE IS THE EVIL. NOW GET OUT THERE, BE A HERO AND SLAY THAT OVERLORD!

UH, YES, SIR...
Fell to Overlord
WHO ARE THEY??
LAST SEEN GOING IN THIS DIRECTION!!

WOO!
YAY!
HA HA HA!!
SLIDE
MASTER!!
WOO!
AH! EXCELLENT WORK SIRE!


LOOK AT THEIR EVIL LITTLE FACES.
THEY'LL BE TALKING ABOUT YOUR TRIUMPH OVER THOSE INTERFERING HEROES ALL NIGHT!
TECHNICALLY, I CALLED A RETREAT.
LETTING OFF A LIGHTNING BOLT IN SOMEONE'S FACE AND MAKING A DARING ESCAPE IS HALF OF WHAT BEING AN EVIL OVERLORD IS ABOUT, MASTER.
HEROES PERPETUALLY UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF CUNNING.
FAVOURING HONOURABLE TRAITS LIKE BRAVERY AND STRENGTH.


JAMBAGS
RUN!
WHEN PERSONALLY, I'VE ALWAYS FOUND A SWIFT KICK TO THE JAM-BAGS AND A LIGHT-FOOTED ESCAPE WORK JUST AS WELL.
OUCH...
YOU'RE DOING WONDERFULLY, SIRE. NOW THEN...?
OH! RIGHT!
GOOD WORK TODAY, EVERYONE - WE REALLY SHOWED THOSE HEROES WE'RE NOT TO BE MESSED WITH!

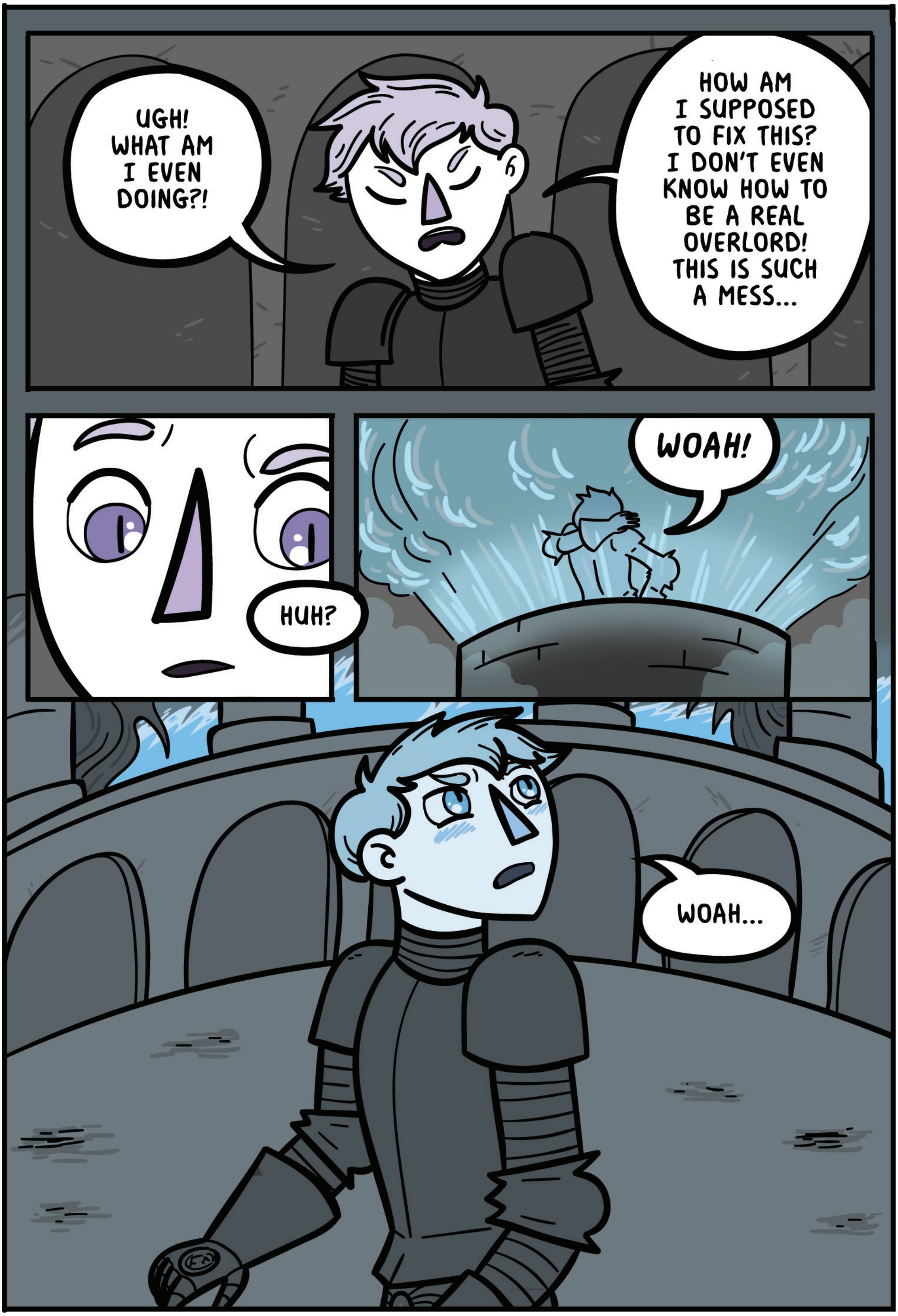
AND... AND SOON, WE WILL HAVE THE TOWER RESTORED!
YAAY!!
WOO!
WOOPAH!
RESTORED TO WHAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE!
YEAAAAAH!!!
RUMBLE

RUMBLE!
EEK!
YIKES!
WHAT THE--?!
RUUUMMBLEEE...
CRACK!
CRACK!

IT'S GETTING WORSE...
WE NEED TO START REPAIRS - IMMEDIATELY.
OF COURSE, SIRE.
GROG!
YUP!
ASSEMBLE THE CONSTRUCTION CREWS AND HAVE THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED SUPPLIES BROUGHT UP.
YUSSIR!
KEEP EVERYONE OUT OF THE FOUNDATIONS FOR NOW, OK?

YES MY LORD.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS CAUSING IT, SIRE?
I...I DON'T KNOW.
NOT YET.

BRUSH
WOAH!
THAT'S A LOT OF MAGIC.
HMM...


UGH! WHAT AM I EVEN DOING?!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIX THIS? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO BE A REAL OVERLORD! THIS IS SUCH A MESS...
HUH?
WOAH!
WOAH...

?
WOAH! WOAH! WOAH! WHAT THE HECK?!
ENOUGH!
ENOUGH OF THIS, NOW!
BUT YOU'RE... YOU'RE HER! THE HERO OF LEGEND!
OH MY GODS, DID I BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE?! ARE YOU A ZOMBIE?! THAT'S PRETTY GROSS...
WAVE
CAN YOU NOT SEE ME...?

THIS IS A MEMORY, RIGHT?
WHO'S MEMORY?
YOURS?
BUT WHY IS IT HERE?
YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU EXPECTED BETTER OF ME.

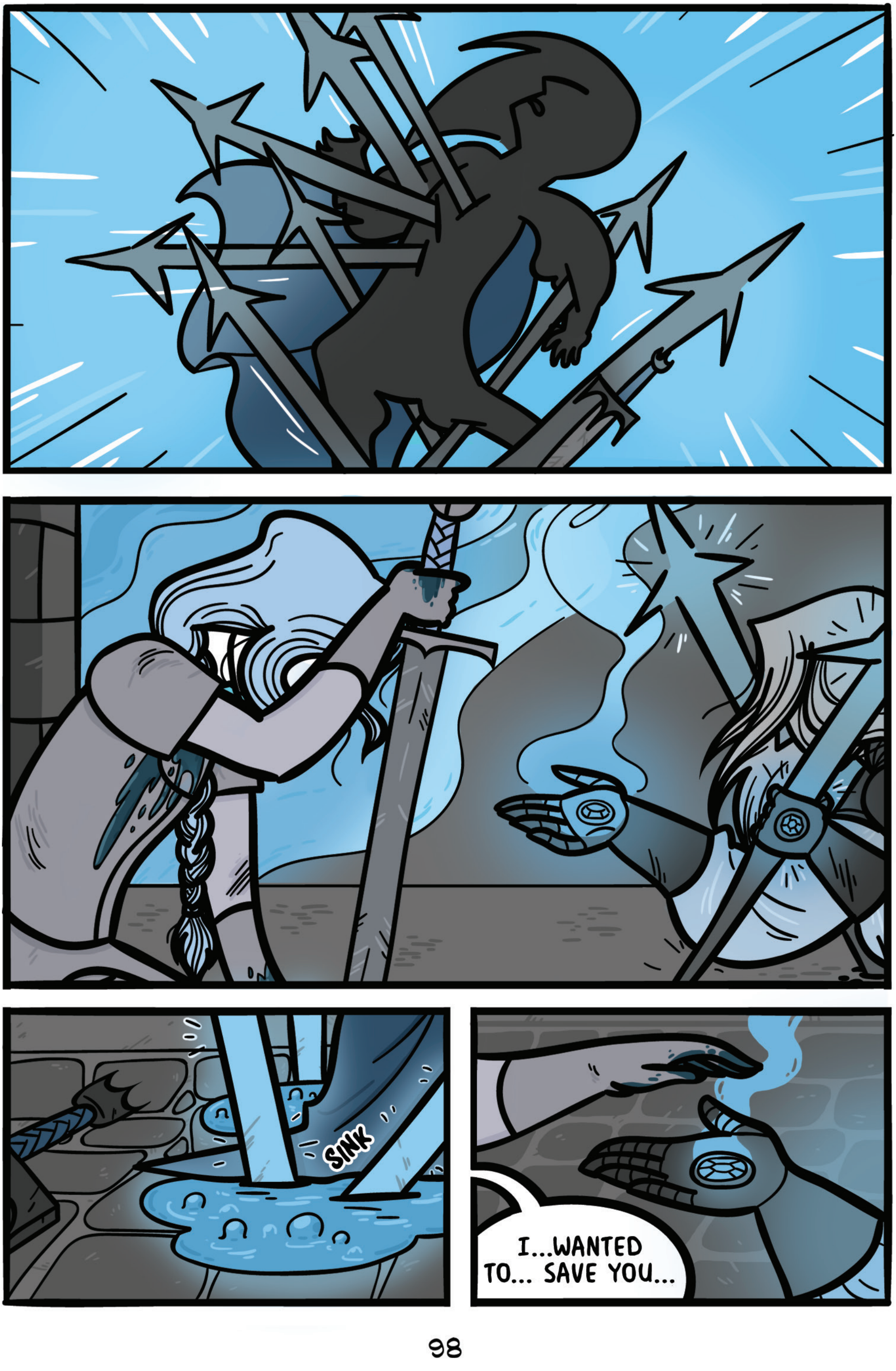
WE COULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH MORE THAN THIS! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN THIS!
SPARE ME YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS LECTURING. WE BOTH KNOW I COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ANYTHING MORE.
OR DID YOU FORGET ABOUT THIS!
FSHOOOM!!
DASH!
CCCRACK!

NO! YOU DID THIS!
GRIP
CRACKK!
YOU DECIDED THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE! MAGIC OR NO MAGIC!
SWING
YOU KNEW EACH OTHER?!
CLAANG!
WE COULD HAVE SHOWN THEM! THEY WOULD HAVE LISTENED! WE COULD HAVE CHANGED EVERYTHING!
IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED NOTHING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YAARGH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SWIVEL
SLASH!
NNNGH...
THIS WAS THE ONLY ENDING--

!?
WOOOOOOSH!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE A MAGIC USER?!?
WHAT THE--!

SHIIINNNK!!


SINK
I...WANTED TO... SAVE YOU...

SLUMP
SINK
THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCEPTED US...
SINK
NNGH!
SLIP!
WHOOOOM!
CONTRACT
HISS!!
OH MY GODS! OH MY GODS!!

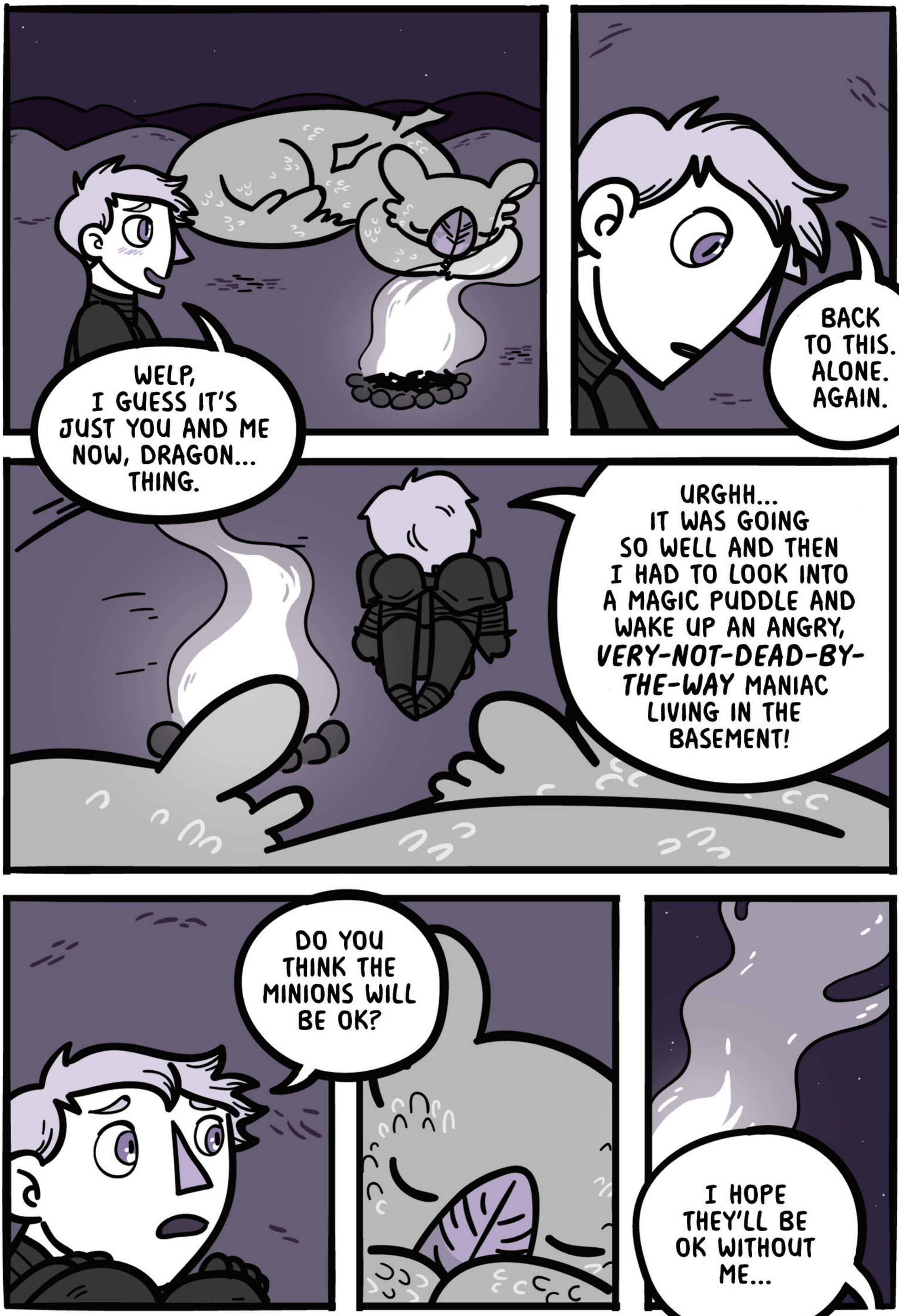
BUT THE STORY SAYS ONLY HE DIED HERE, NOT YOU AS WELL! OH MY GODS!!
RUSH!
WOAH!
WHAT THE-?! WHERE AM I NOW? IS THIS THE TOWER'S FOUNDATIONS?
?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! THE HERO IS DEAD, I JUST - I JUST WATCHED HER DIE!!
HOW CAN THESE BE HER MEMORIES IF SHE DIED?!
UNLESS THEY'RE NOT HERS? BUT THEN, THEY'RE...
HEH HEH HEH...

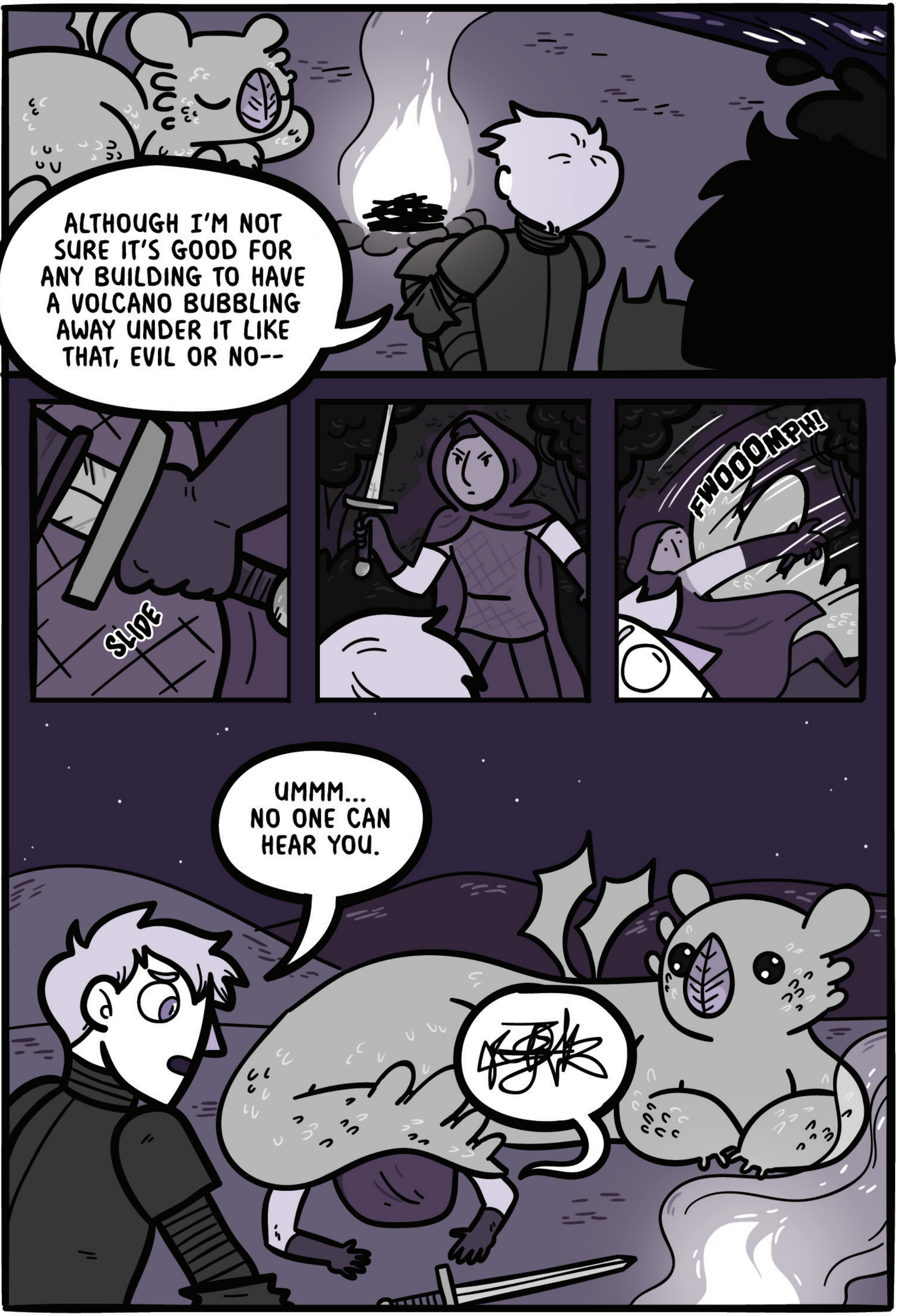
THEY'RE NOT HEEERS... THEY'RE...
MINE!
YAAAAARGH!!
I SEE YOOOOU, LITTLE OVERLOOORD...

SMASH!
HISS!
HISSS!
GRAB!
SWIPE!
YAAAAAARGHH!!
SWIPE!
SCRATCH!
I SEE YOUR MAAGIIIC...
CREAK
MY MAGIC!
MY WELL OF POWEERRR!!

OOF!
SLAM!
CRACKLE
PANT!
PANT!
OH GODS! OH GODS!!
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SWOOP!
WOOOM!

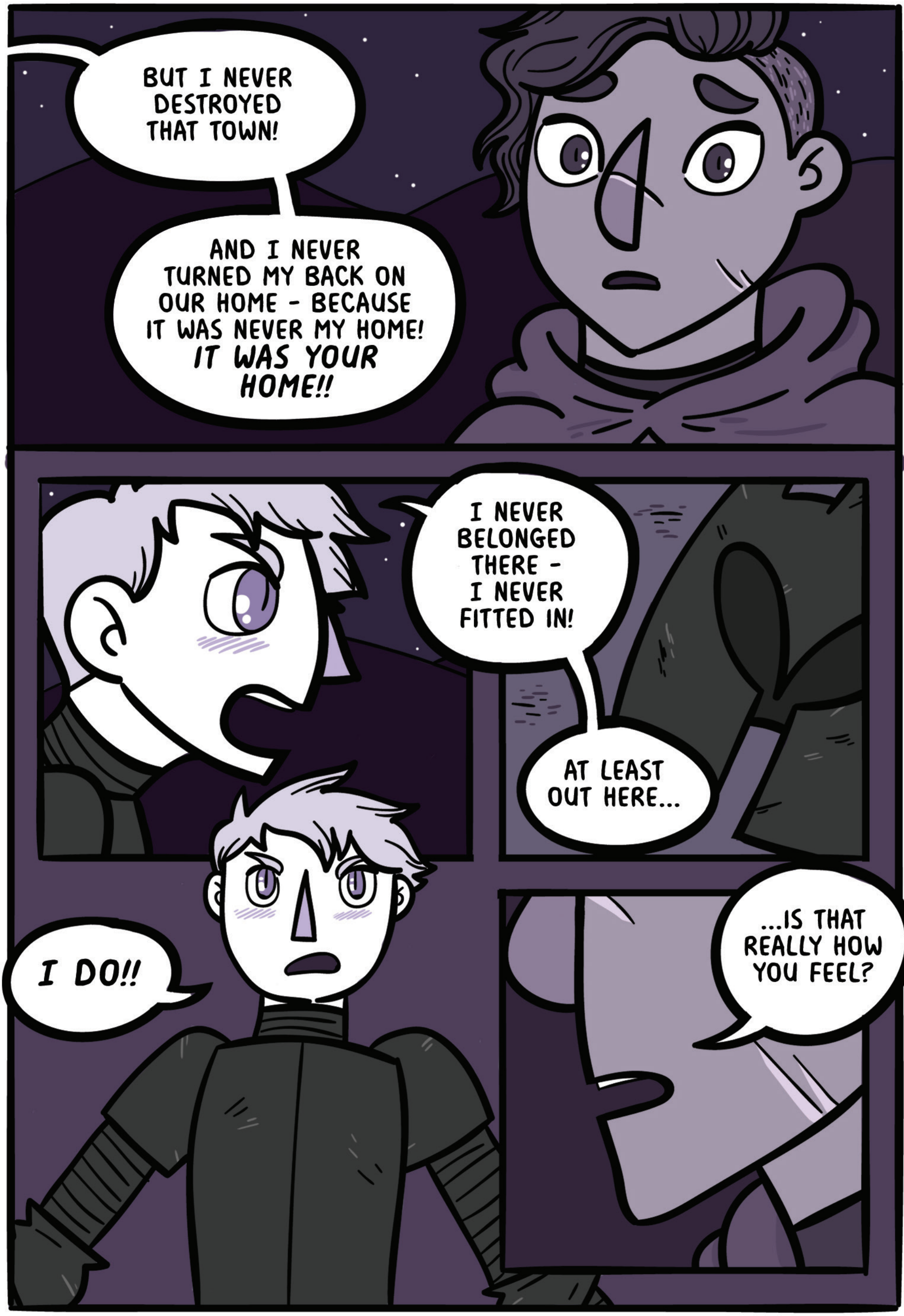

WELP, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, DRAGON... THING.
BACK TO THIS. ALONE. AGAIN.
URGHH... IT WAS GOING SO WELL AND THEN I HAD TO LOOK INTO A MAGIC PUDDLE AND WAKE UP AN ANGRY, *VERY-NOT-DEAD-BY-THE-WAY* MANIAC LIVING IN THE BASEMENT!
DO YOU THINK THE MINIONS WILL BE OK?
I HOPE THEY'LL BE OK WITHOUT ME...


ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE IT'S GOOD FOR ANY BUILDING TO HAVE A VOLCANO BUBBLING AWAY UNDER IT LIKE THAT, EVIL OR NO--
SLIDE
FWOOOMPH!
UMMM... NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU.

RAAA... AGH!!
SNATCH!
....
WHAT THE #%*@?!
WHAT THE ACTUAL #%*@?!?
YOU %$#@-ING *@$#!!
$%*@!! @#*$*%!!!
THAT'S NOT VERY HEROIC LANGUAGE.
$%*@ YOU.

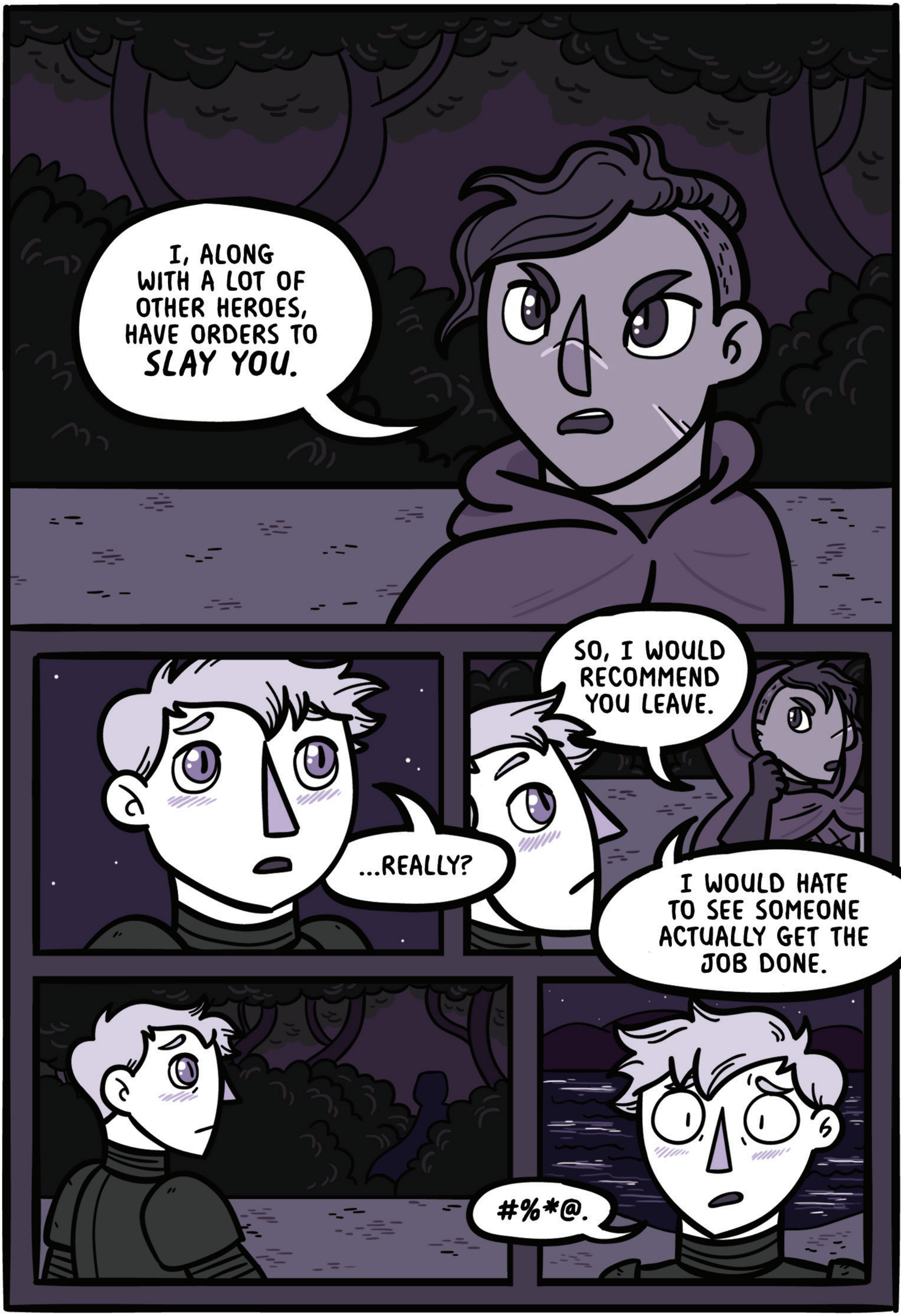
OK. I MIGHT HAVE DESERVED THAT.
YOU... YOU *MIGHT* HAVE DESERVED THAT?!
YOU'RE THE **OVERLORD!!**
YES - WELL, NO. IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE--
YOU **DESTROYED** THAT TOWN!
UH, NO, THAT WAS--

YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON OUR HOME! AND EVERYTHING IT REPRESENTS!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE--
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE! AND HERE YOU ARE, WORKING YOUR WAY TOWARDS WORLD DOMINATION!
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?!
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE OVERLORD!
OK, FINE! I AM THE OVERLORD! HAPPY NOW?! IT'S ME!!


BUT I NEVER DESTROYED THAT TOWN!
AND I NEVER TURNED MY BACK ON OUR HOME - BECAUSE IT WAS NEVER MY HOME! IT WAS YOUR HOME!!
I NEVER BELONGED THERE - I NEVER FITTED IN!
AT LEAST OUT HERE...
I DO!!
...IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU FEEL?

HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT? ABOUT HEROESTOWN?
ABOUT ME?
WHAT? I--
I GUESS I THOUGHT...
FLAP
MY MISTAKE.
SHINK

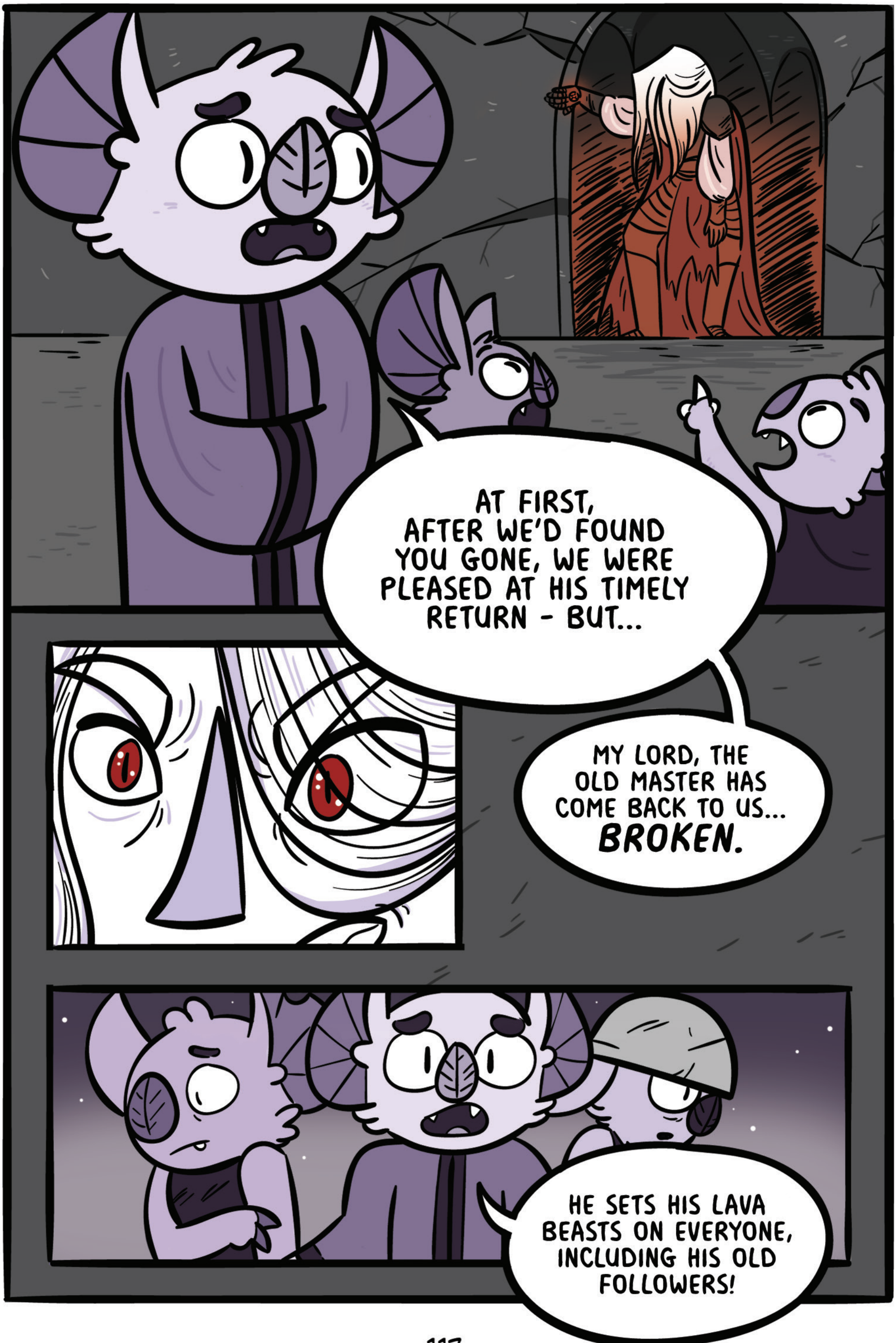
GLARE
WAIT, IVOR, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU AND--
IVOR, WAIT, PLEASE! THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT - SOMETHING WORSE, UNDERNEATH THE TOWER!
THE OTHER OVERLORD, THE PREVIOUS ONE - HE'S NOT DEAD!
GRAZE
I'VE SEEN HIM!
UM, YOU HEARD WHAT I JUST SAID, RIGHT? THE PREVIOUS OVERLORD, HE--
TURN
I HEARD. NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME.


I, ALONG WITH A LOT OF OTHER HEROES, HAVE ORDERS TO SLAY YOU.
...REALLY?
SO, I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU LEAVE.
I WOULD HATE TO SEE SOMEONE ACTUALLY GET THE JOB DONE.
#%*@.

ZZZ...
ZZZ...
RUMBLE!
TREMBLE!
SINK

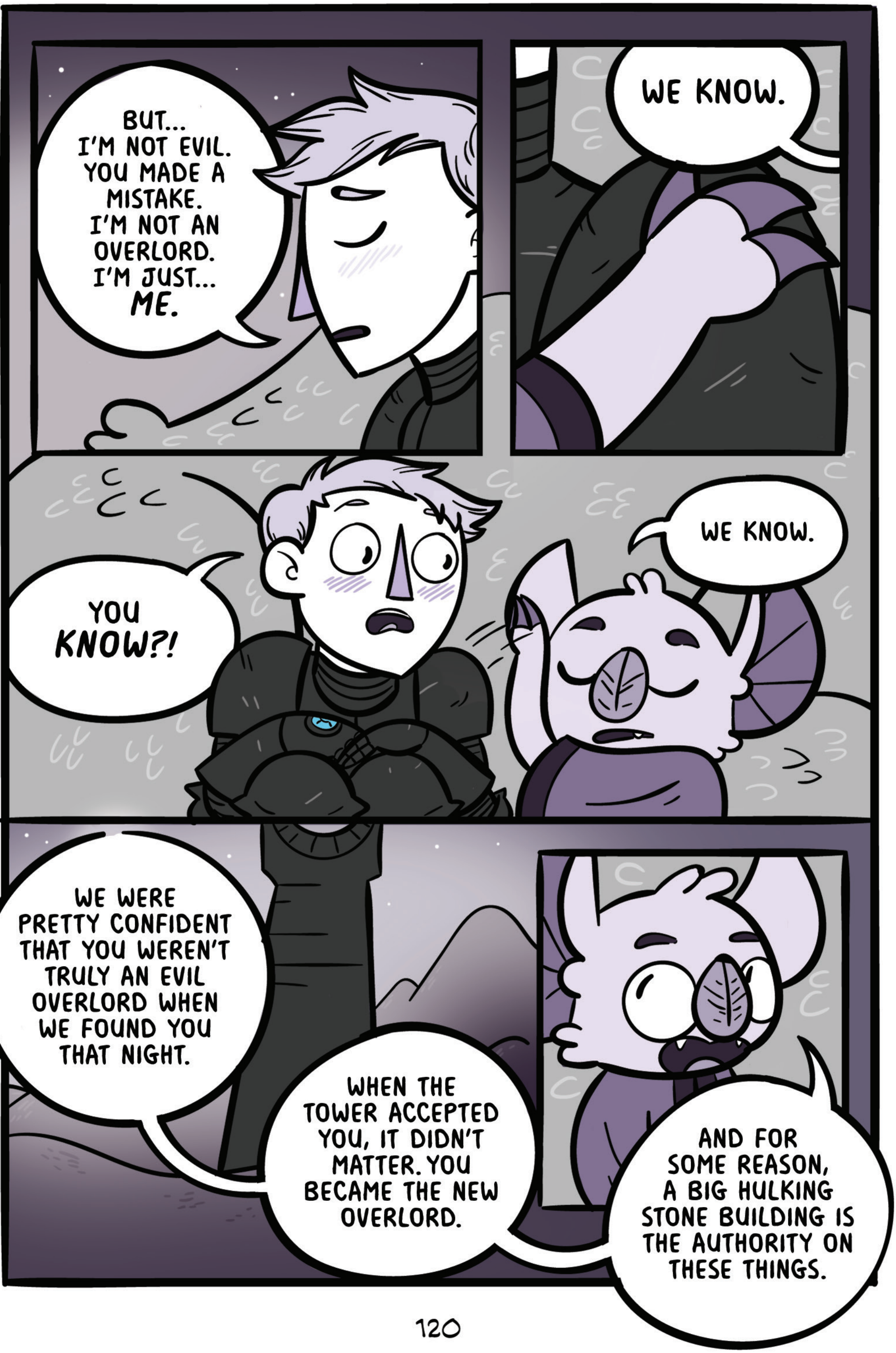
THERE YOU ARE, SIRE! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
EEEP!!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND ME?!
SIRE, YOU TOOK YOUR GAUNTLET...
AND YOUR HELMET...

WHICH ARE BOTH CONNECTED TO THE TOWER.
IT WASN'T HARD.
I'M NOT GOING BACK QUIETLY...
SO IF YOU'RE HERE TO CAPTURE ME OR SOMETHING EQUALLY HORRIBLE WHICH I'D RATHER NOT VERBALISE...
THEN GET ON WITH IT, I GUESS.
WE'RE NOT HERE TO TORTURE YOU, SIRE!
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE NEED YOUR HELP!
YOU... YOU WHAT, NOW?
THE TOWER, SIRE! IT'S IN CHAOS!

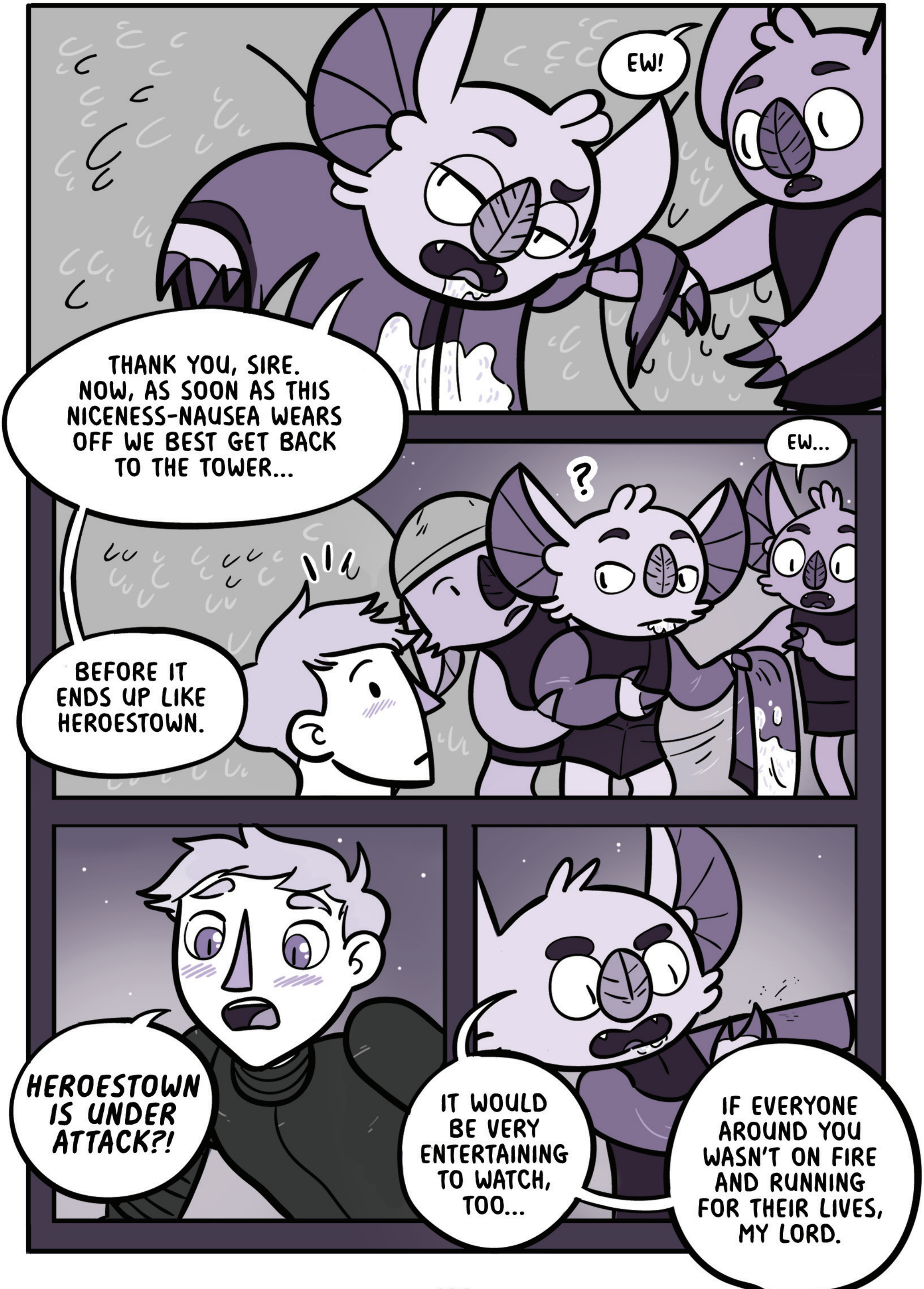

AT FIRST, AFTER WE'D FOUND YOU GONE, WE WERE PLEASED AT HIS TIMELY RETURN - BUT...
MY LORD, THE OLD MASTER HAS COME BACK TO US... BROKEN.
HE SETS HIS LAVA BEASTS ON EVERYONE, INCLUDING HIS OLD FOLLOWERS!

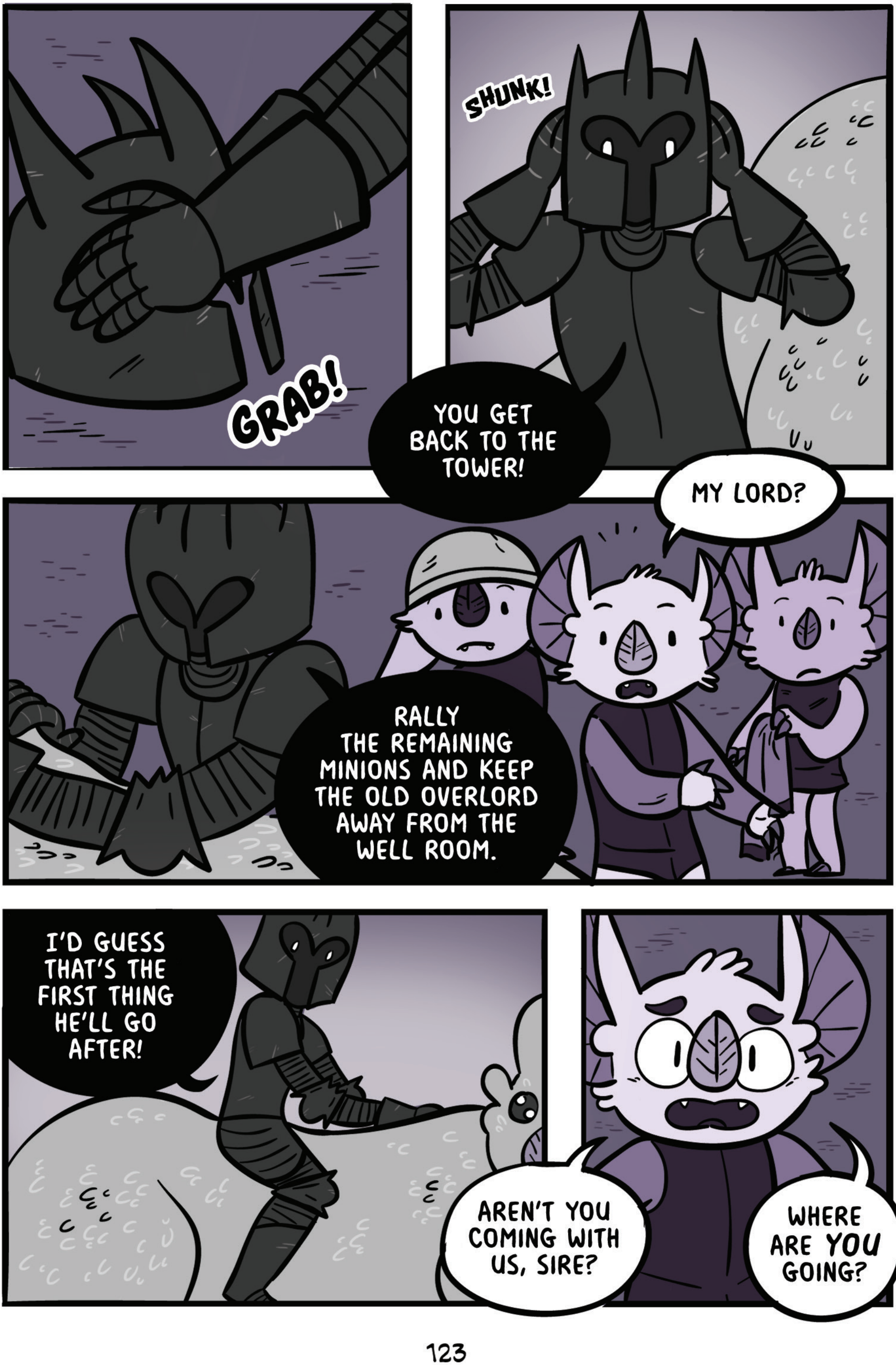
MANY OF THE MINIONS ARE HOLED UP IN SOME OF THE TOWER ROOMS...
BUT I FEAR THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THESE CREATURES WITHOUT THE GUIDANCE OF THEIR OVERLORD!
PLEASE, MY LORD! YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THEM...
NO, I CAN'T.

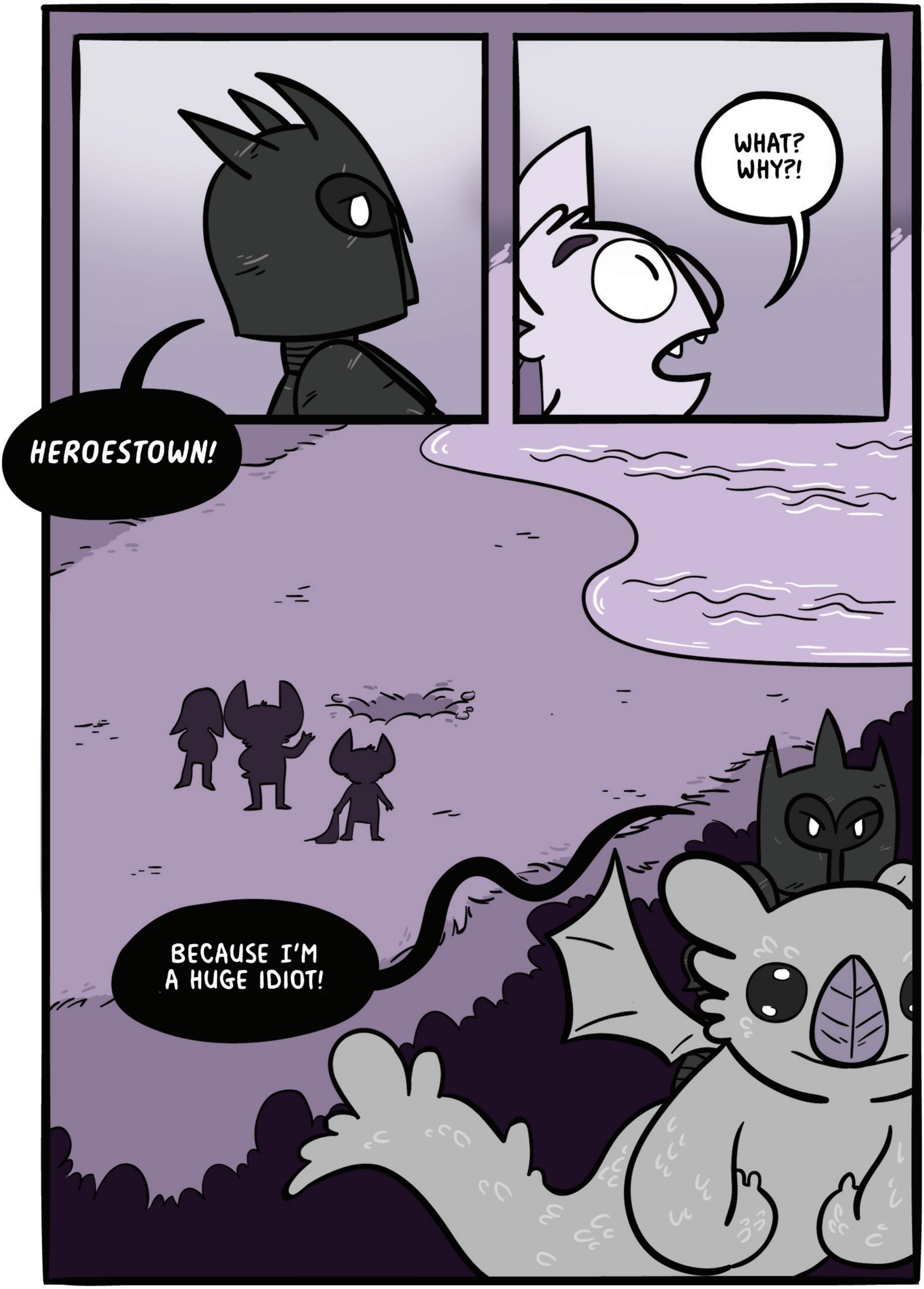
I'M... I'M NOT A REAL OVERLORD. I'M FROM HEROESTOWN.
AAIIIIEEEEEE!!!
EEEEEE...
PLEASE CONTINUE.
I RAN AWAY BECAUSE I DIDN'T BELONG THERE. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT I WAS OUTSIDE THAT TOWER WHEN YOU FOUND ME...
BUT THEN, YOU MADE ME OVERLORD AND IT REALLY FELT LIKE I FITTED IN THERE - WITH ALL OF YOU.


BUT... I'M NOT EVIL. YOU MADE A MISTAKE. I'M NOT AN OVERLORD. I'M JUST... ME.
WE KNOW.
YOU KNOW?!
WE KNOW.
WE WERE PRETTY CONFIDENT THAT YOU WEREN'T TRULY AN EVIL OVERLORD WHEN WE FOUND YOU THAT NIGHT.
WHEN THE TOWER ACCEPTED YOU, IT DIDN'T MATTER. YOU BECAME THE NEW OVERLORD.
AND FOR SOME REASON, A BIG HULKING STONE BUILDING IS THE AUTHORITY ON THESE THINGS.

THE POINT IS, MY LORD, YOU MAY NOT FEEL LIKE AN OVERLORD OR THINK YOU ARE AN OVERLORD, BUT YOU *ARE* AN OVERLORD JUST BY BEING YOU. YOU'RE *OUR* OVERLORD.
BARF!
URGH - I THINK I MAY HAVE ACTED AGAINST MY ALIGNMENT...
WOW, THAT WAS REALLY NICE. YOU KNOW, UNTIL YOU BARFED EVERYWHERE.

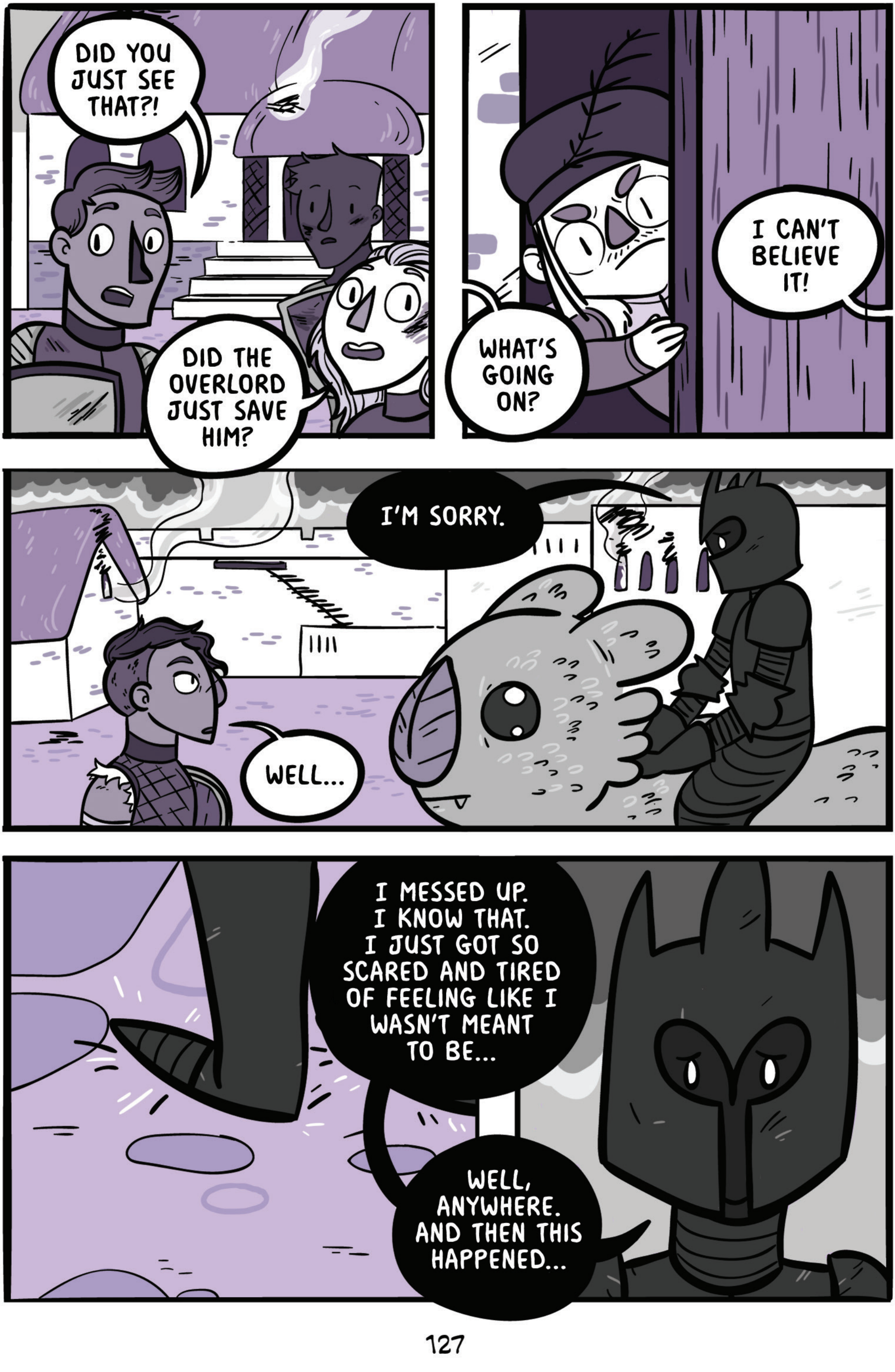

EW!
THANK YOU, SIRE. NOW, AS SOON AS THIS NICENESS-NAUSEA WEARS OFF WE BEST GET BACK TO THE TOWER...
EW...
?
BEFORE IT ENDS UP LIKE HEROESTOWN.
HEROESTOWN IS UNDER ATTACK?!
IT WOULD BE VERY ENTERTAINING TO WATCH, TOO...
IF EVERYONE AROUND YOU WASN'T ON FIRE AND RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES, MY LORD.

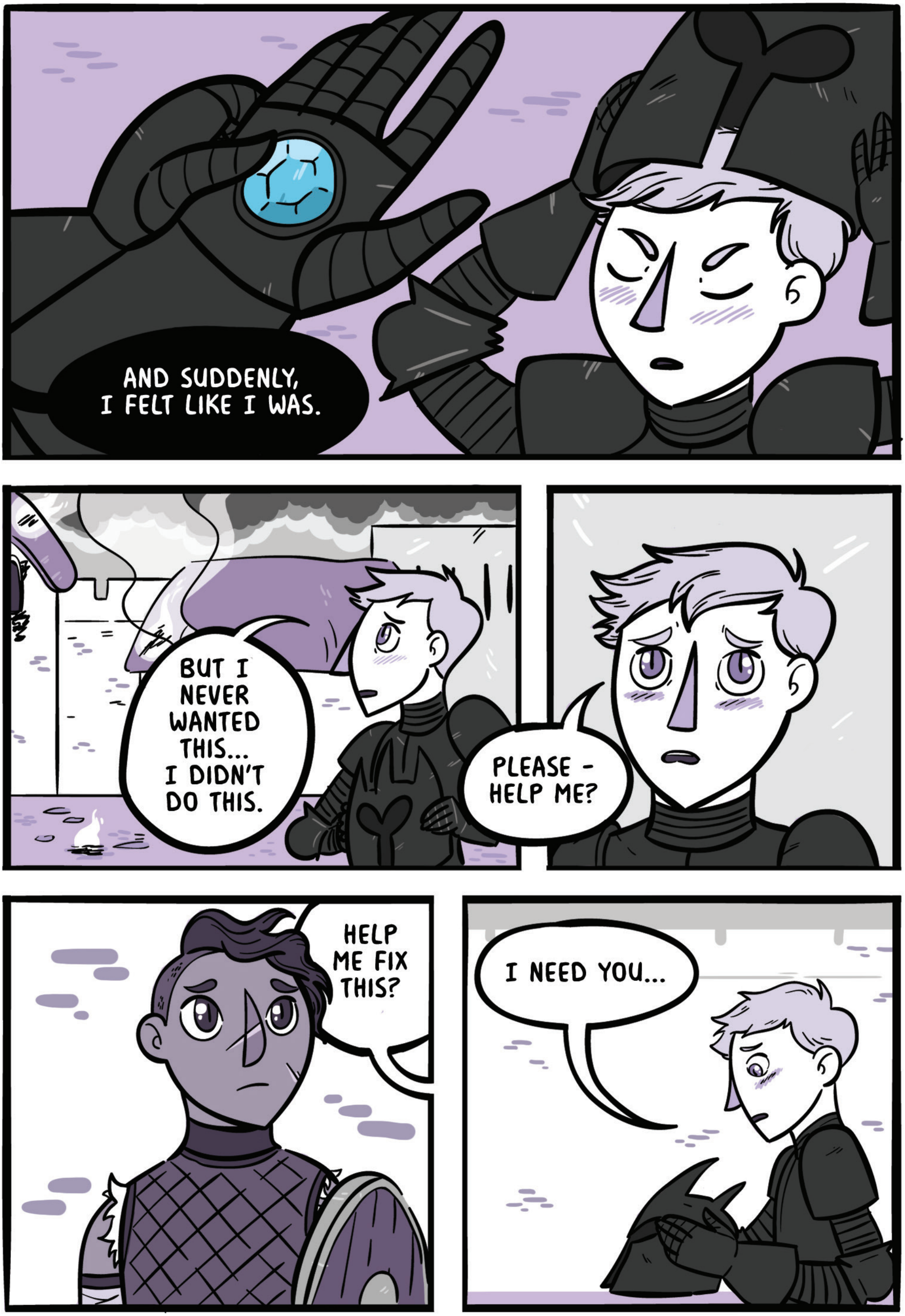

GRAB!
SHUNK!
YOU GET BACK TO THE TOWER!
MY LORD?
RALLY THE REMAINING MINIONS AND KEEP THE OLD OVERLORD AWAY FROM THE WELL ROOM.
I'D GUESS THAT'S THE FIRST THING HE'LL GO AFTER!
AREN'T YOU COMING WITH US, SIRE?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


HEROESTOWN!
WHAT? WHY?!
BECAUSE I'M A HUGE IDIOT!

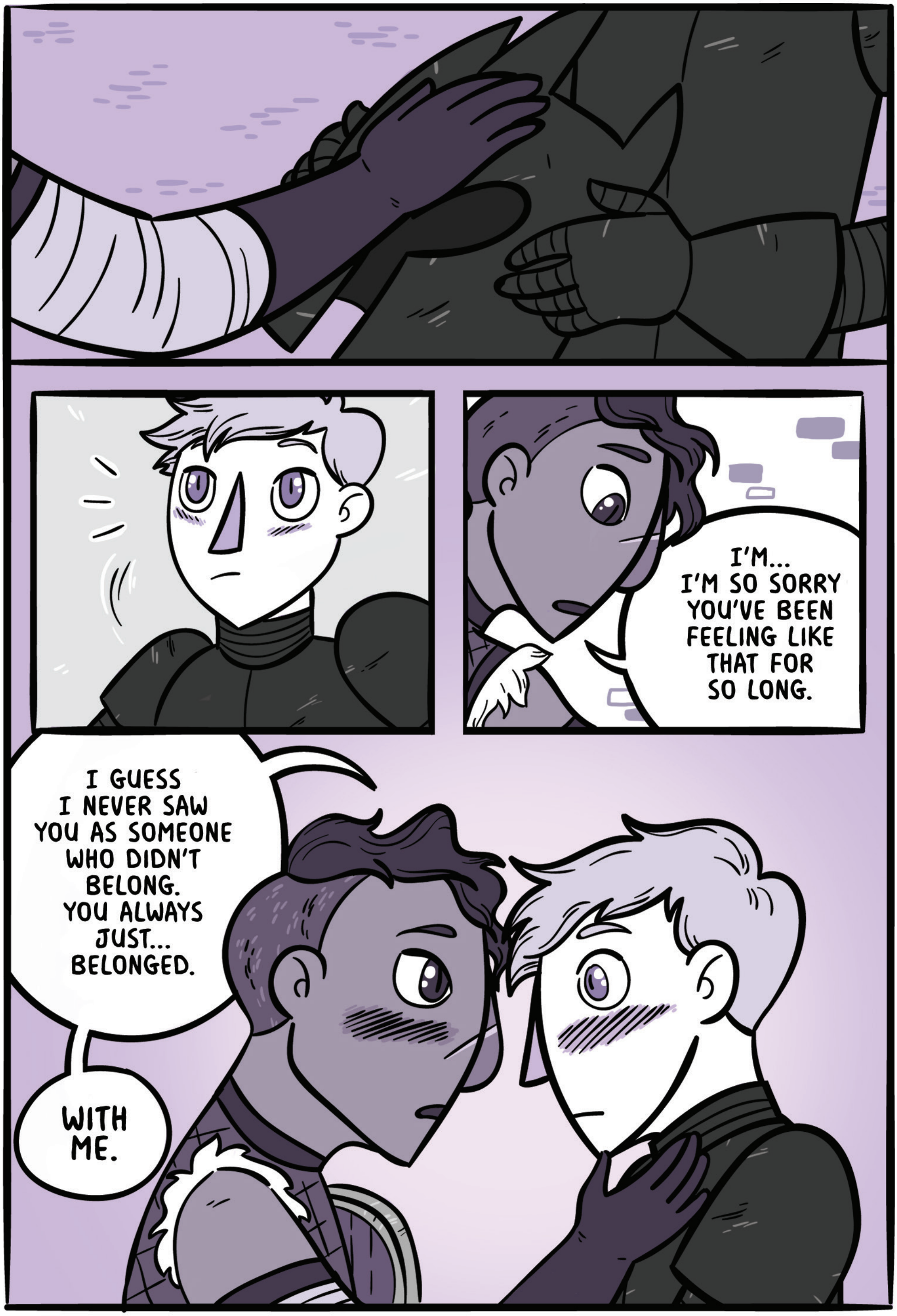
FWOOOMP!
CLASH!
CRACK!
HISS!
PULL EVERYONE BACK!
YES SIR!
WOOOOOSH!
WHAT THE--?

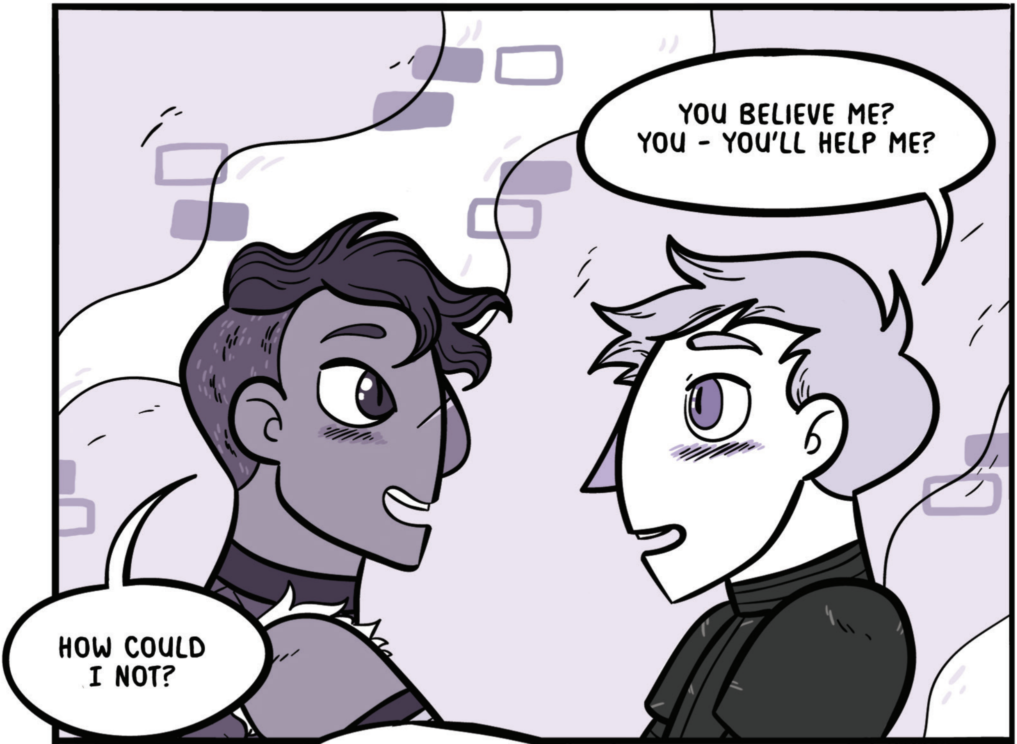
ROAR!!!
HISS!
SLAM!
OOF!!
SWISH
SWIPE
FWOOMMM
I TOLD YOU--
BLAST!!


DID YOU JUST SEE THAT?!
DID THE OVERLORD JUST SAVE HIM?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I'M SORRY.
WELL...
I MESSED UP. I KNOW THAT. I JUST GOT SO SCARED AND TIRED OF FEELING LIKE I WASN'T MEANT TO BE...
WELL, ANYWHERE. AND THEN THIS HAPPENED...

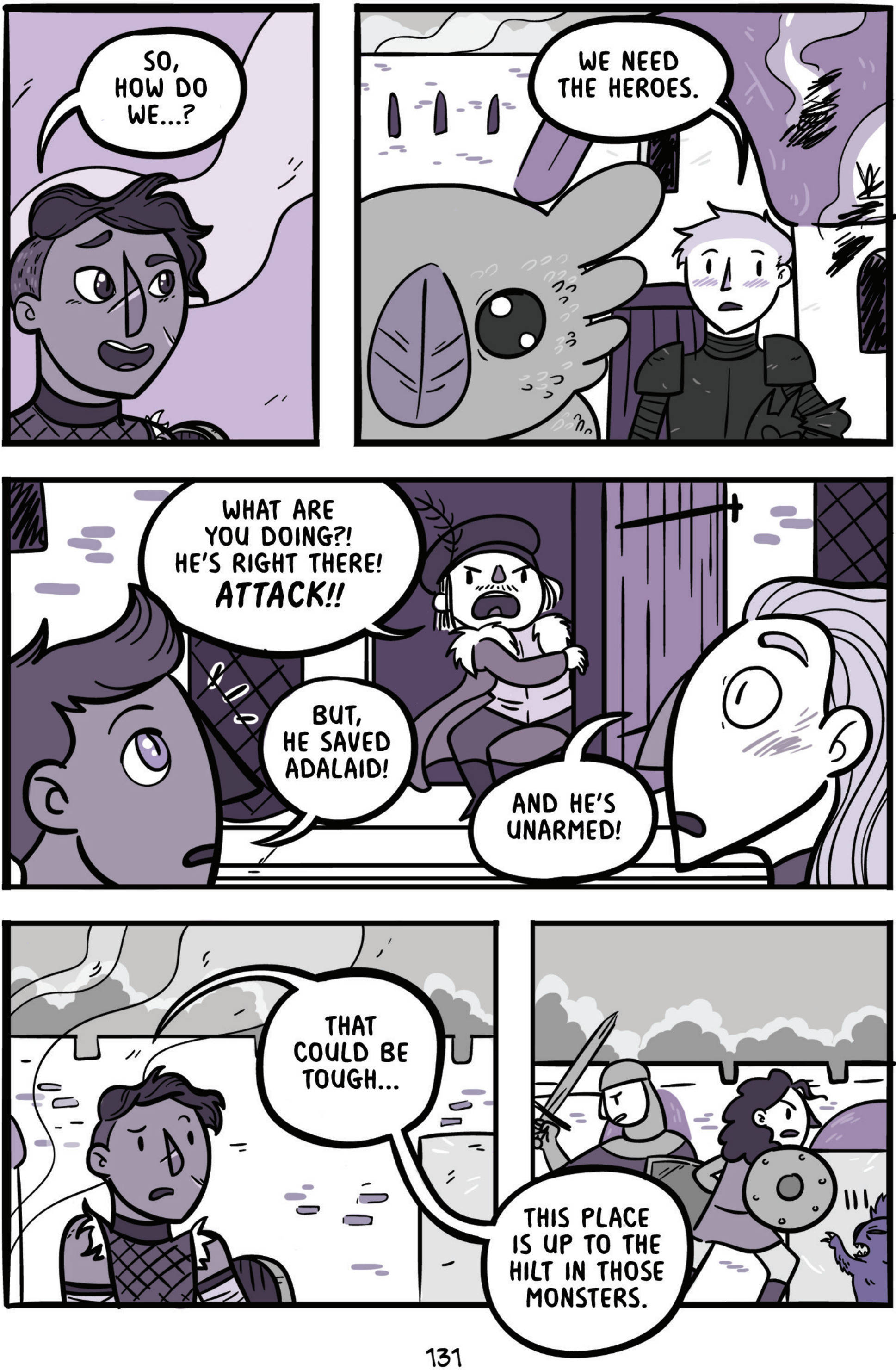


AND SUDDENLY, I FELT LIKE I WAS.
BUT I NEVER WANTED THIS... I DIDN'T DO THIS.
PLEASE - HELP ME?
HELP ME FIX THIS?
I NEED YOU...


I'M... I'M SO SORRY YOU'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE THAT FOR SO LONG.
I GUESS I NEVER SAW YOU AS SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T BELONG. YOU ALWAYS JUST... BELONGED.
WITH ME.

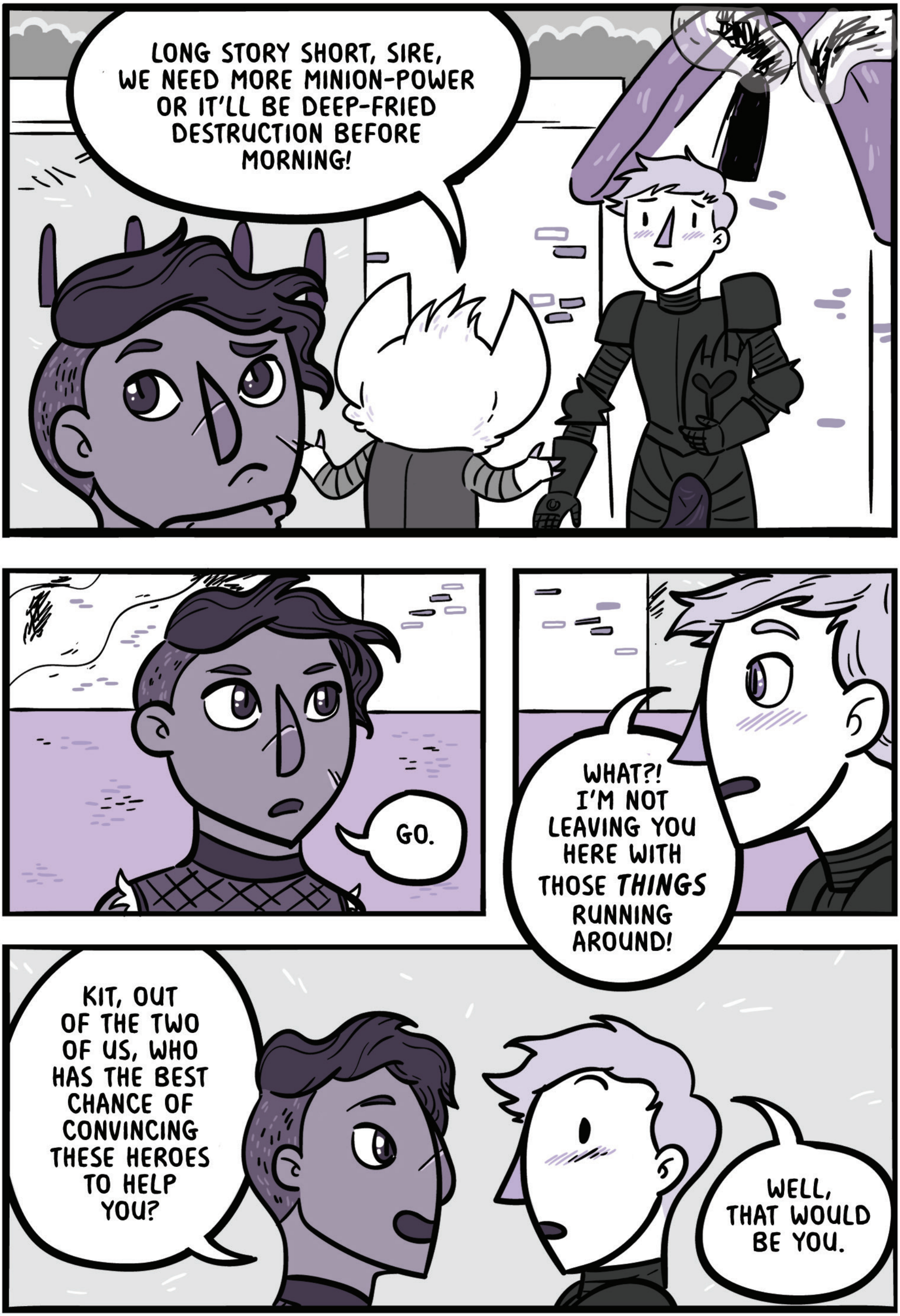

YOU BELIEVE ME?
YOU - YOU'LL HELP ME?
HOW COULD I NOT?

YOU JUST CRASH LANDED INTO A TOWN FULL OF PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU DEAD TO SAVE ME.
OH YEAH.


SO, HOW DO WE...?
WE NEED THE HEROES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HE'S RIGHT THERE! ATTACK!!
BUT, HE SAVED ADALAID!
AND HE'S UNARMED!
THAT COULD BE TOUGH...
THIS PLACE IS UP TO THE HILT IN THOSE MONSTERS.

AND YOU'RE--
ON THEIR LIST?
YOU ARE THEIR LIST.
TREMBLE!!
UH OH!
THERE YOU ARE, SIRE!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU-- YOU KNOW WHAT, NEVER MIND. WHAT IS IT GRUBBINS?

REPORT FROM THE TOWER, MY LORD...
...
IT'S NOT GOING WELL.
OF COURSE IT'S NOT - WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
HONESTLY SIRE, WE'RE UP TO OUR BUTT-CRACKS IN MUTANT LAVA BEASTS, AND TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT ONE OF THOSE THINGS ANYWHERE NEAR YOU, LET ALONE NEAR YOUR BUTT--
OKAY, I GET IT!!


LONG STORY SHORT, SIRE, WE NEED MORE MINION-POWER OR IT'LL BE DEEP-FRIED DESTRUCTION BEFORE MORNING!
GO.
WHAT?! I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE WITH THOSE *THINGS* RUNNING AROUND!
KIT, OUT OF THE TWO OF US, WHO HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF CONVINCING THESE HEROES TO HELP YOU?
WELL, THAT WOULD BE YOU.

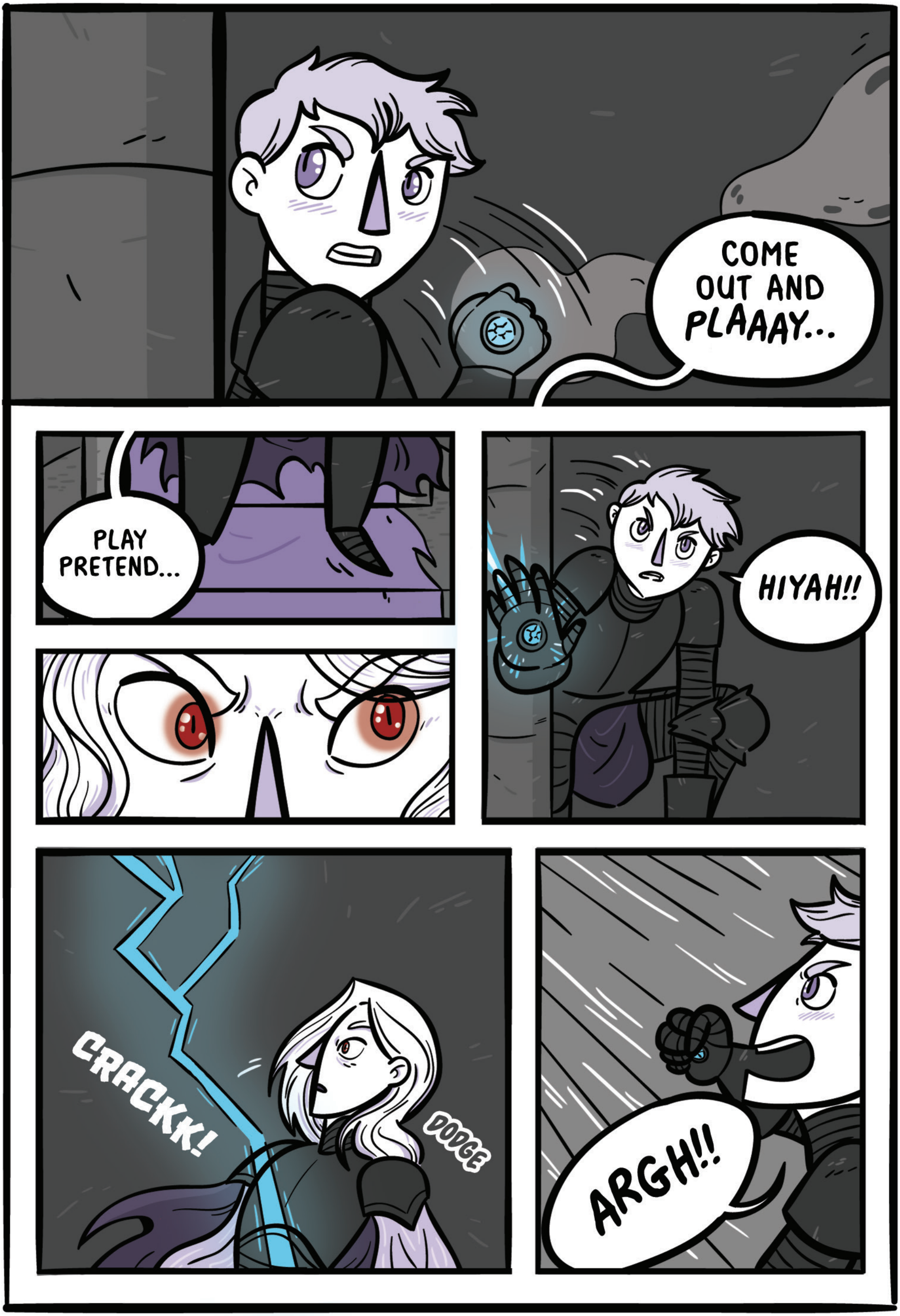
EXACTLY! GO DEFEND YOUR TOWER.
STEP
IF THESE MONSTERS ARE COMING FROM UNDERNEATH IT...
THEN I THINK I CAN CONVINCE THE HEROES TO HELP YOU RECLAIM IT - AFTER ALL, IT IS KIND OF OUR JOB!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS...?
BACK TO THE TOWER!
JUST GO!
SWOOP!

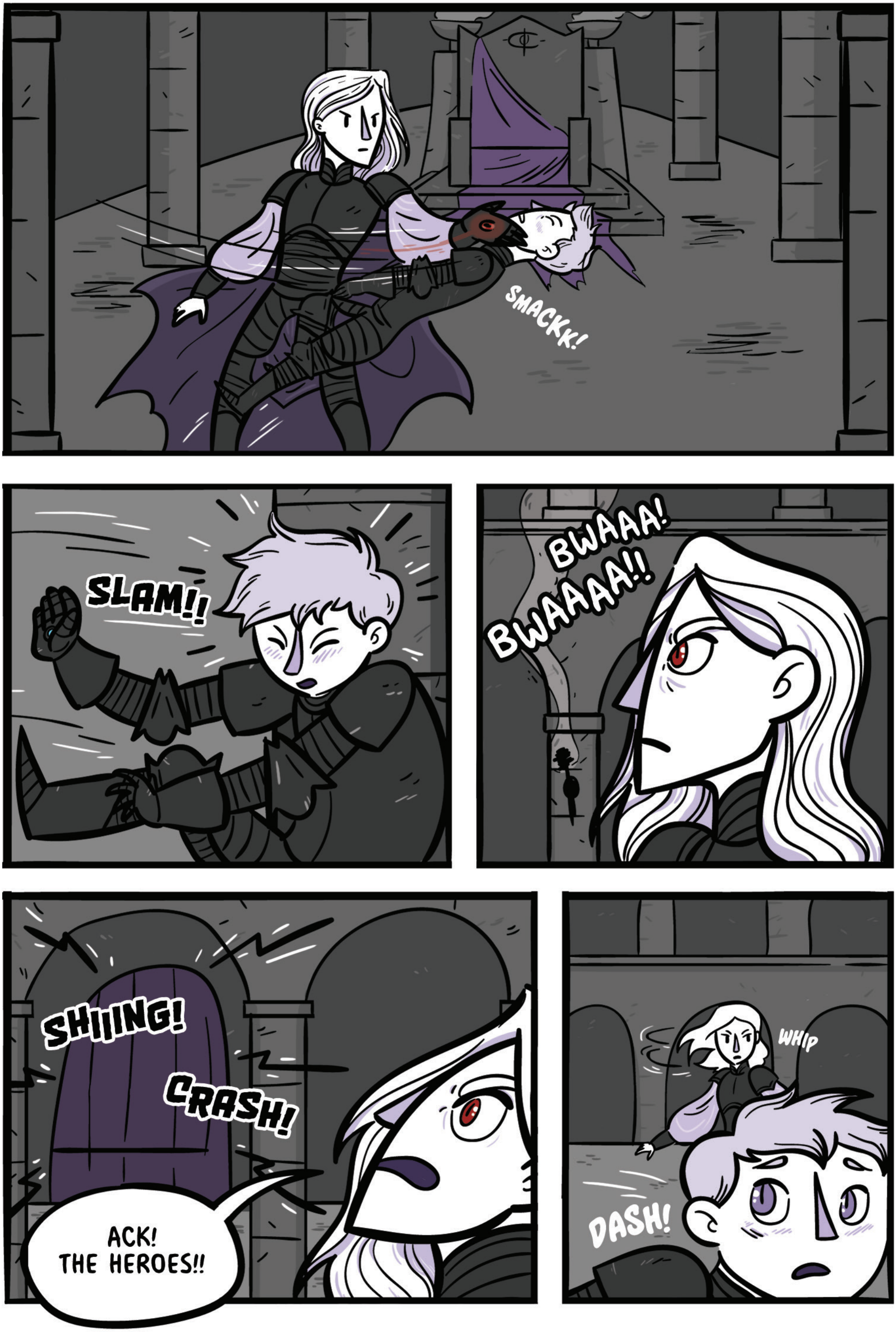
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
ALL CLEAR... FOR NOW.
GO FIND GIBBET AND THE OTHERS!

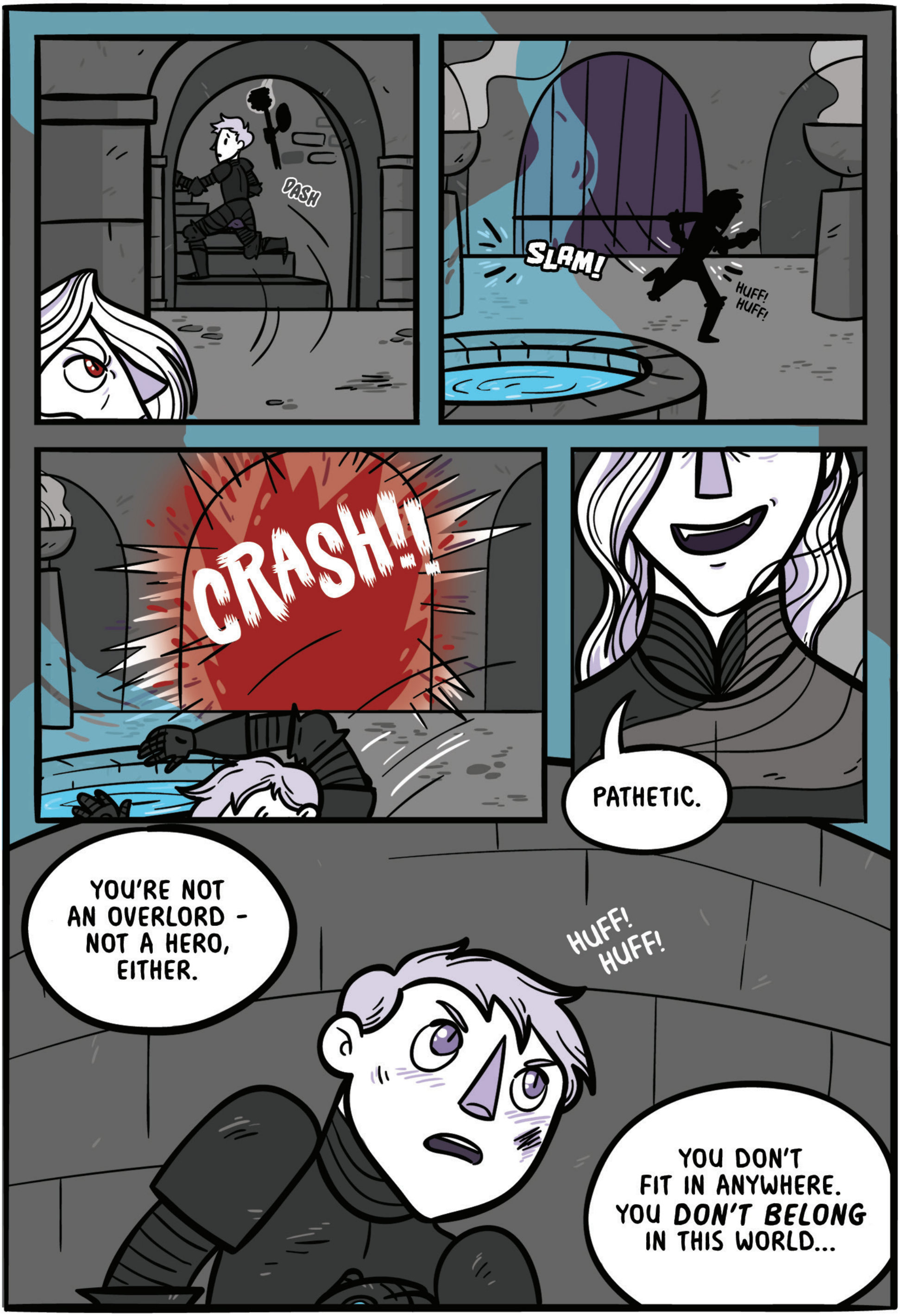
THE FIGHTING SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM EVERYWHERE...
SO WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
TURN
HISS
HELLO?

HELLO?
SLAM!
HELLO, LITTLE PRETENDER.

WOOOSH!
ACK!
WOOOM
I SEE YOU FOUND MY OTHER GAUNTLET.
CLEVER BOY!
FWOOSH!
BOOOWSH
LEAP!
OOF!
CLANG!
COME OUT, COME OUT...


COME OUT AND PLAAAY...
PLAY PRETEND...
HIYAH!!
CRACKK!
DODGE
ARGH!!


SMACKK!
SLAM!!
BWAAA!
BWAAAA!!
SHIIING!
CRASH!
ACK! THE HEROES!!
WHIP
DASH!


DASH
SLAM!
HUFF! HUFF!
CRASH!!
PATHETIC.
YOU'RE NOT AN OVERLORD - NOT A HERO, EITHER.
HUFF! HUFF!
YOU DON'T FIT IN ANYWHERE. YOU *DON'T BELONG* IN THIS WORLD...

NYAH!
DEFLECT!
HA!
HA!
SWOOSH!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
TWIST!
HA!
HA!

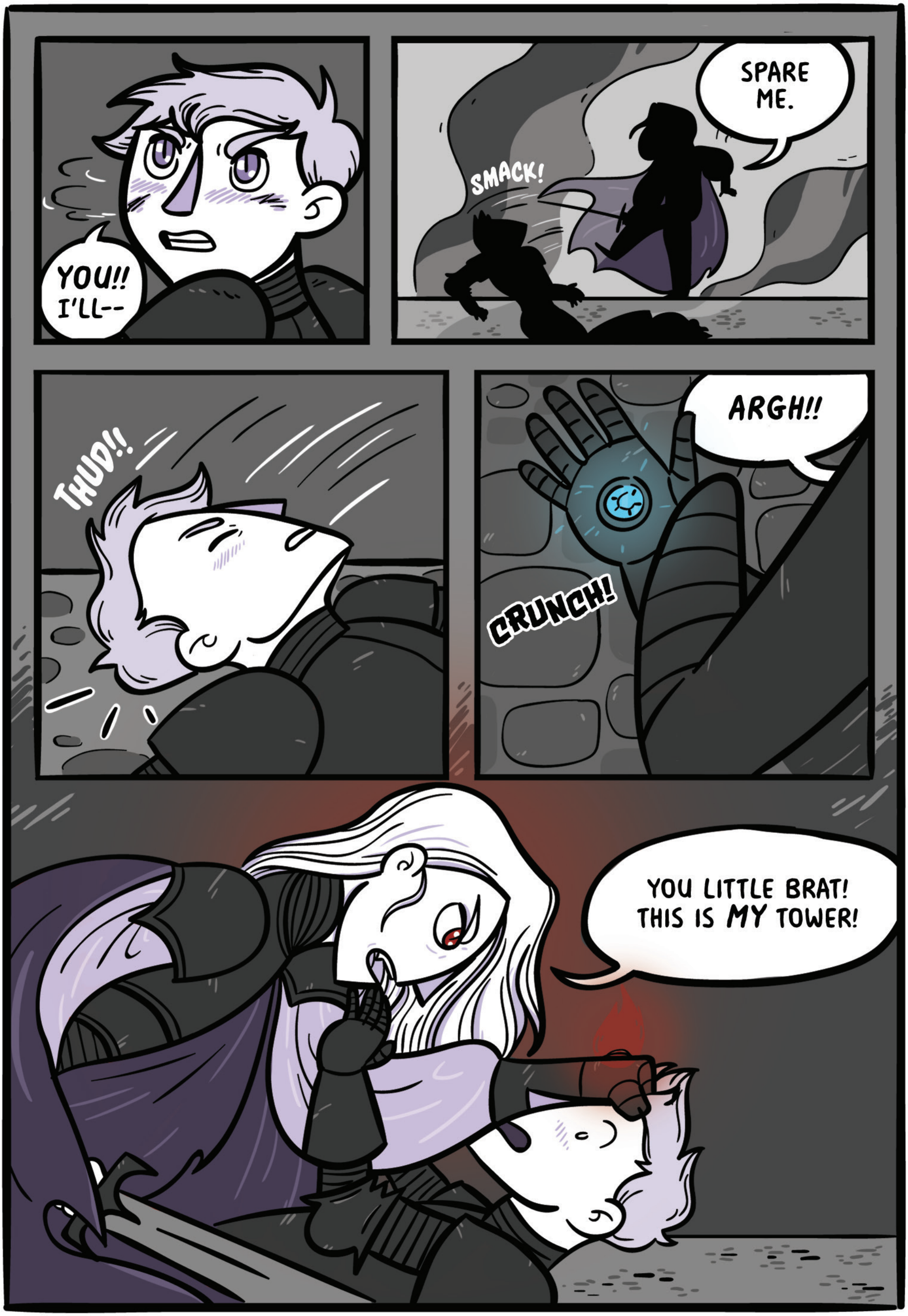
?!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
I CAN FIX YOU, YOU KNOW.
MAKE YOU FIT IN...
CORRECT YOU...
BEND YOU INTO THE RIGHT SHAPE...
AND BE LIKE YOU? NO THANKS!
THE TOWER CHOSE ME FOR WHO I ALREADY AM!

FFFSHH!!
SWING!
DODGE
IVOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SAVING THE DAY, NATURALLY!

SHINK!
CLASH!
WOOSH!
CRACK!
PANT
PANT

ENOUGH!
THIS ENDS NOW!!
DASH!
FWOOSH!
BWOOOSH!!
SLAMM!!

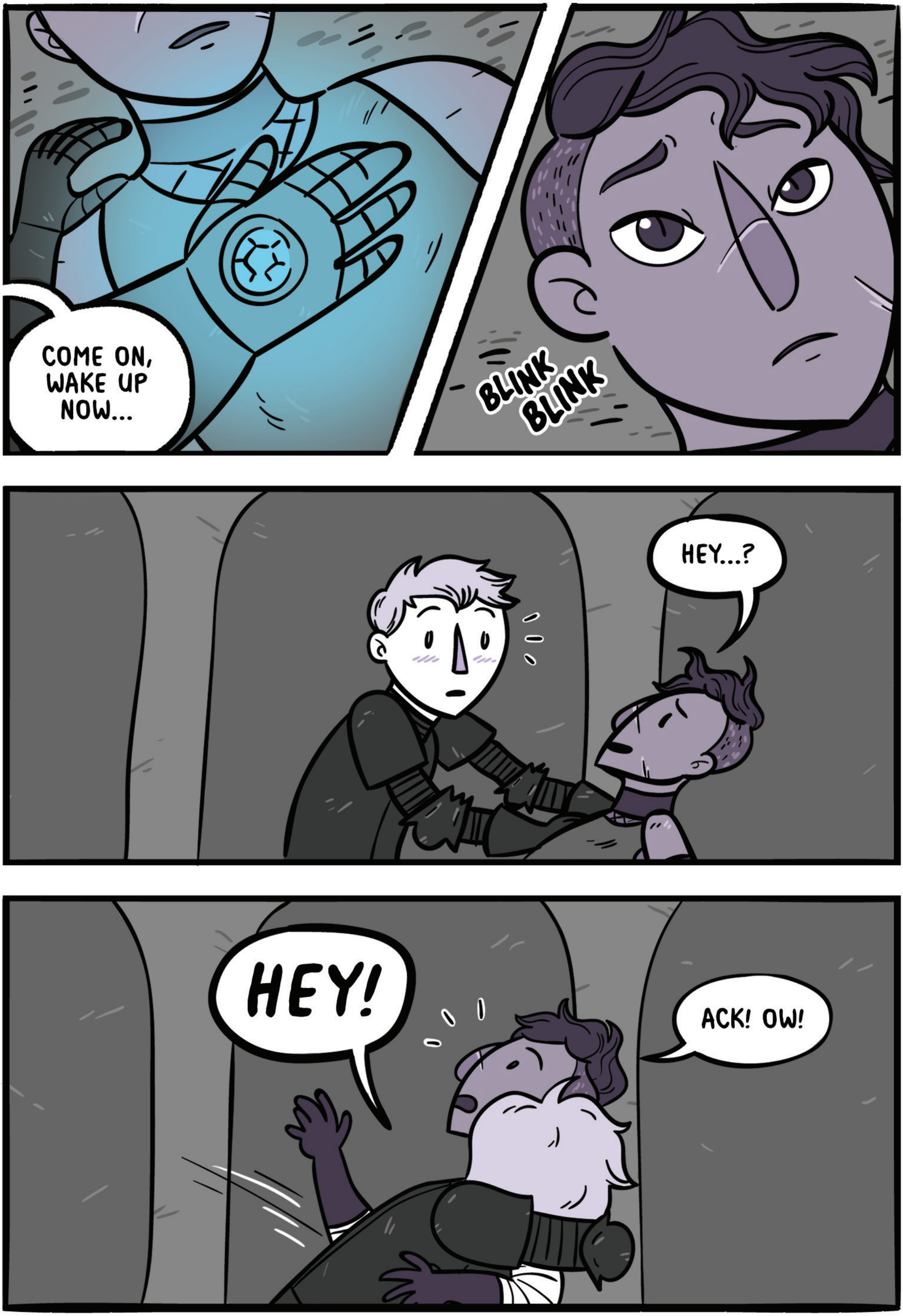
COUGH! COUGH!
IVOR!
IVOR?!
IVOR!!


YOU!! I'LL--
SMACK!
SPARE ME.
THUD!!
ARGH!!
CRUNCH!
YOU LITTLE BRAT! THIS IS MY TOWER!

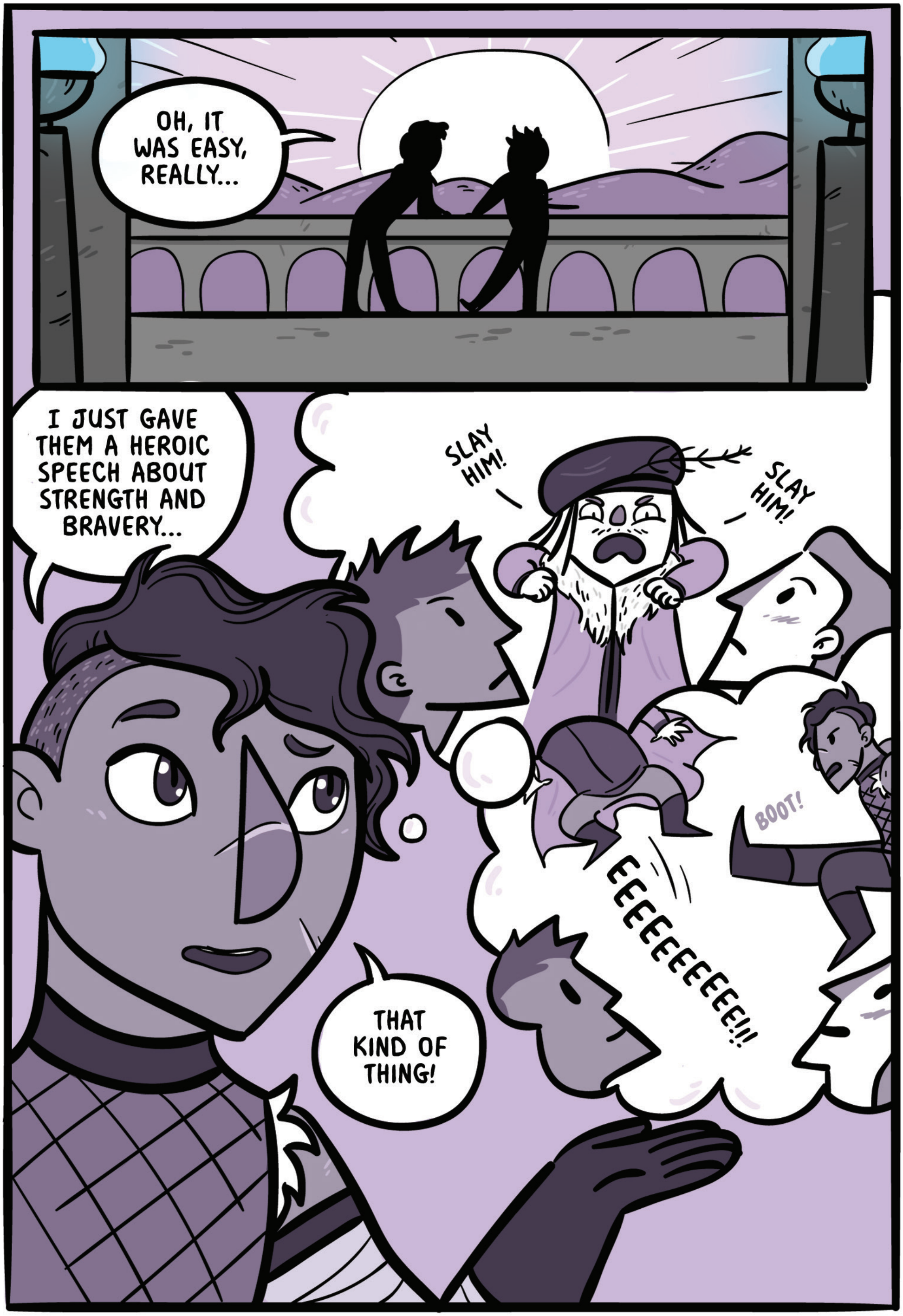
MY REALM!
SLAM!!
MY WORLD!
AND THERE IS NO PLACE IN IT FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU! DIE!!
HWIP
SLASH!

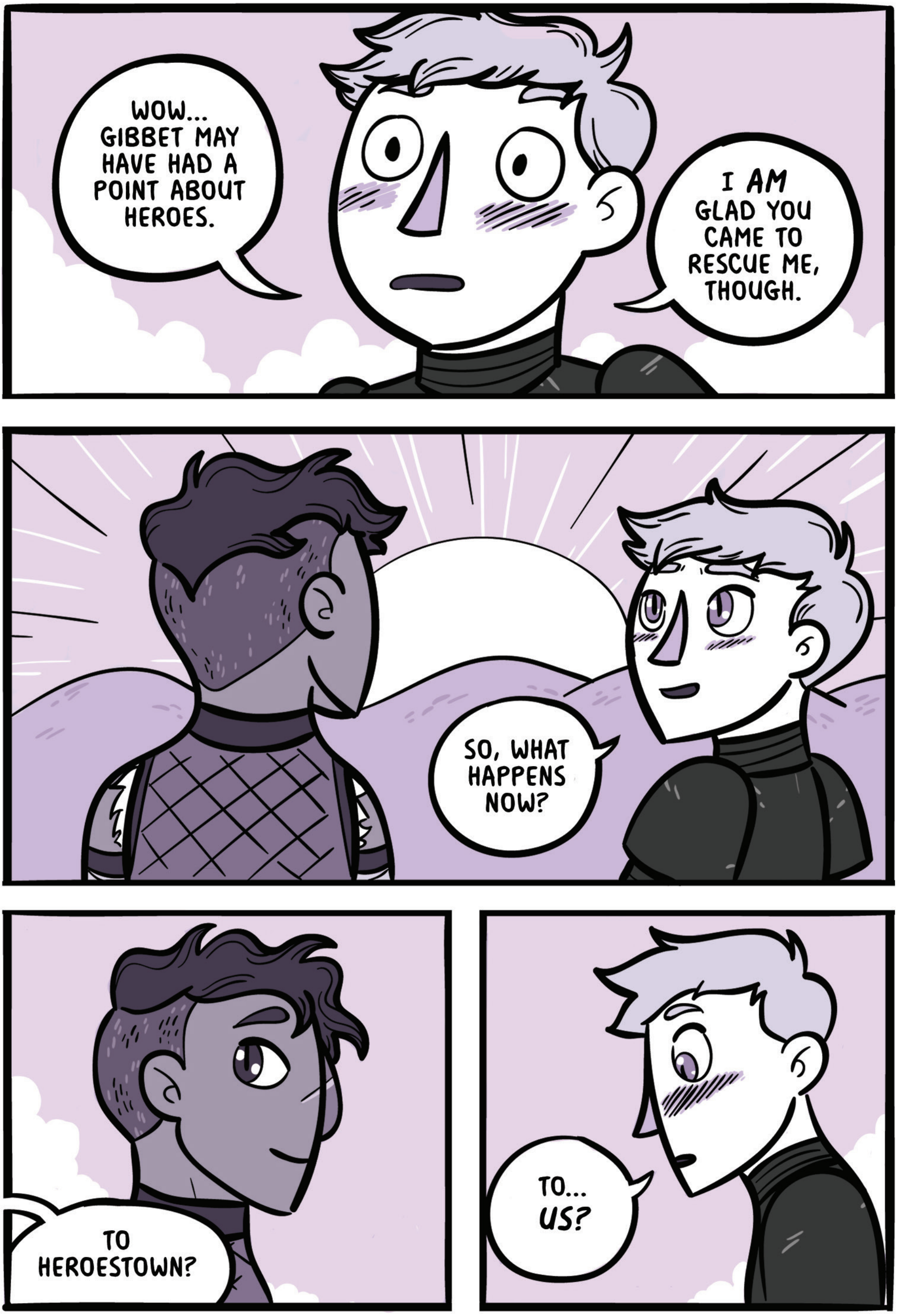
CLATTER
GASP!
GASP!
AAAAAAAAAAAARGH!!!
PWOOFFF!

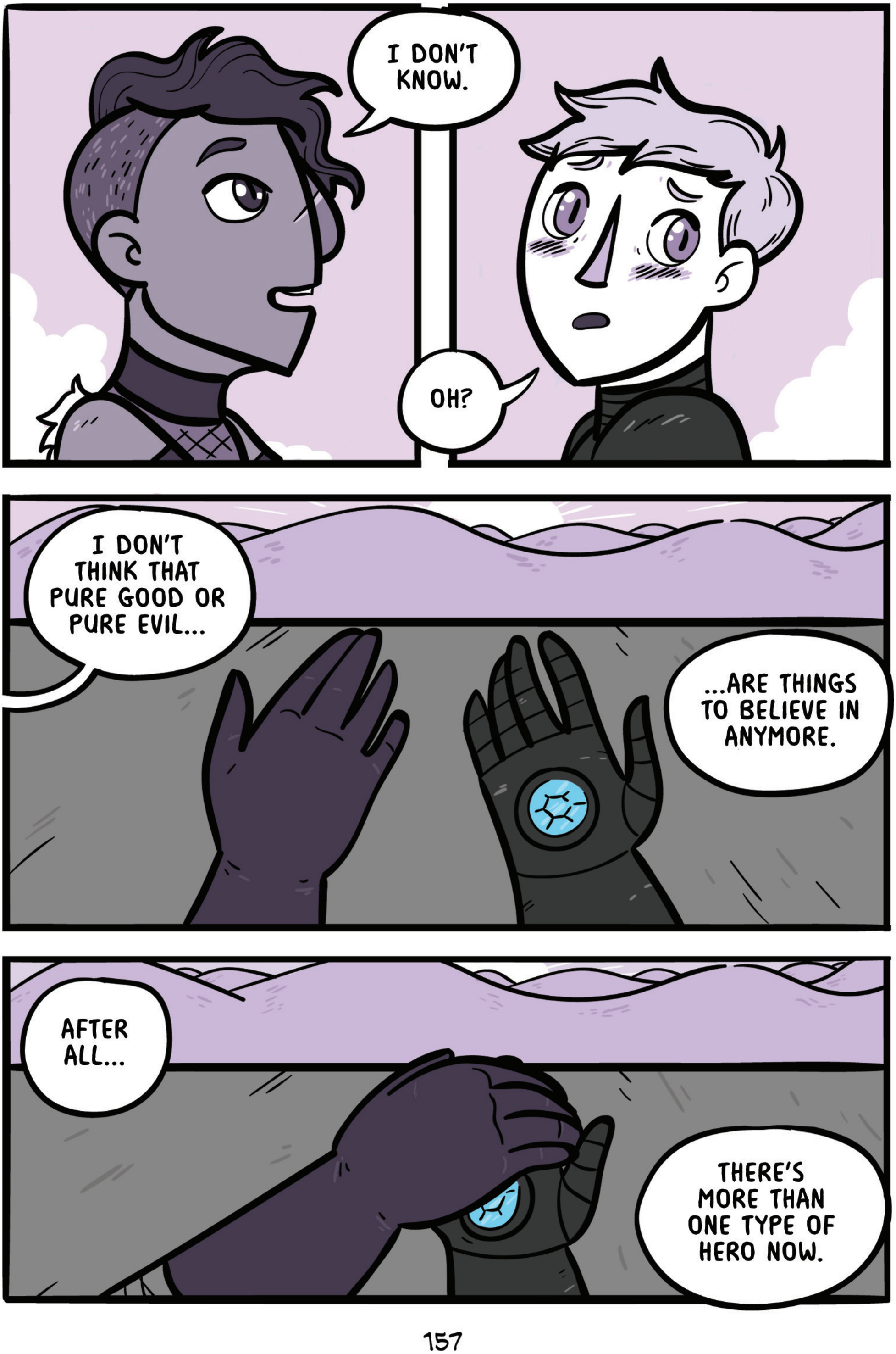
HISSSS...
IVOR?
COME ON - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!
...IT'S WORTH TRYING.


COME ON, WAKE UP NOW...
BLINK BLINK
HEY...?
HEY!
ACK! OW!

A FEW DAYS LATER...
SO, HOW EXACTLY DID YOU CONVINCE THEM?
HMM?
THE HEROES. HOW DID YOU CONVINCE THEM TO HELP? THAT I WASN'T EVIL?


OH, IT WAS EASY, REALLY...
I JUST GAVE THEM A HEROIC SPEECH ABOUT STRENGTH AND BRAVERY...
SLAY HIM!
SLAY HIM!
BOOT!
EEEEEEEEEE!!!
THAT KIND OF THING!


WOW... GIBBET MAY HAVE HAD A POINT ABOUT HEROES.
I AM GLAD YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME, THOUGH.
SO, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
TO HEROESTOWN?
TO... US?


I DON'T KNOW.
OH?
I DON'T THINK THAT PURE GOOD OR PURE EVIL...
...ARE THINGS TO BELIEVE IN ANYMORE.
AFTER ALL...
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF HERO NOW.

THE END

SPECIAL THANKS!

THIS BOOK WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF SOME REALLY SPECIAL PEOPLE SO I'D LIKE TO USE THIS PAGE TO SAY THANK YOU TO MATHEW JONES AND SARAH MILLMAN FOR ALL THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT DURING THIS PROJECT, AND TO EVERYONE ONE WHO BACKED THIS PROJECT ON KICKSTARTER! IT WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT ALL OF YOU!

OVERLORD'S KICKSTARTER BACKERS!

STEPHANIE SEED, TIMOTHY O'CONNELL, RACHEL FISHER, ANASTASIA CATRIS, BETH H, MIKE GARLEY, FAYE SIMMS, PJ AND LISA, JOE GLASS, DANIE PARNESS, NICH ANGELL, PADRAIG BALCH, THE MIGHTY AND POWERFUL MILMO, JON LOCK, MICHAEL NIMMO, STEVE TANNER, RAT KING SAMN, JAMES HOUSE, SUNDANCE THE MISCHIEVOUS, EMILY CATHERINE PINCHES, VICTORIA WILTON, TIMMY PETERSSON, VINCE 'THE MAD BARON' HUNT, JON SCRIVENS, GARY GAINES, THOMAS GOODYEAR, FRANCK VAQUIER, DR G, HANNAH HOWDEN-ROBERTS, PAULA Z, BRIAN HUISMAN, CHRIS ASHWORTH, JENNIFER PRIESTER, SCOTT HARWOOD, ELLEN POWER, ALEXANDRA THE FANCIEST OF PUDDINGS, BEN BLACK HEART, LUKE OF THE DARK WATER, MATTHEW RYAN MITCHELL, JAMES R. CROWLEY, SARAH CROSSMAN, SEBASTIAN URRUTIA, GIGI THE GODDESS, TRAM PHAN, LIBERTY, ZAZA D, EVERSONG, AMADEUSZ OGONEK, MALICIOUS MICHAEL B, ALED MATTHEWS & JOSHUA DOYLE, JESS ELLIS, JON CAHILL, DEADSTAR PUBLISHING, VANESSA "BOO"-DELL, EMILIE, LADY JAMINX DE' VIL, BRYCE, NATE BEAUMONT, PAUL Y COD ASYN JARMAN, VICTORIA THE DRAGON GODDESS, GMARKC...

CHI, GARTH MATTHAMS, TOMOS ASHFIELD,
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JAMES THE RESTLESS,
THE CAPE-WEARING BARON DAVID MOLOFSKY,
MATIS THE MEOWSTER OF DARKMEOW, CHRISTOPHE HERMANS,
YAQUE LAVODI, CHRISTOPHER TOSH, KANOE SASSY HARDIN,
JENNY PELC, JOHN MACLEOD, AMY MOFFITT, GRIFF FELDMAN,
MATT ZWEIG, JAY LOFSTEAD, ALINE-CLAIRE HUYNH, CAIO,
C. S. BUCKLEY, JANINE MüNGER, GO! GO! ROBOTENDO,
MERISSA SMITH, NOEL SCHORNHORST, A. LLAMA, TOM LOCKARD,
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PETROV NEUTRINO, MARTIN...

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KIT THORNWOOD DOES NOT FIT IN.

NOT ONLY IS HE THE LEAST HEROIC PERSON IN HEROESTOWN, BUT HE'S ALSO A SECRET MAGIC USER. AND NOW HE HAS PUNCHED THE MAYOR IN THE FACE.

ON THE RUN, KIT FINDS HIMSELF THE UNWITTING NEW MASTER OF THE DARK TOWER, STRONGHOLD OF THE INFAMOUS OVERLORD.

DELIGHTED TO FINALLY FIT IN, THINGS QUICKLY ESCALATE WHEN KIT DISCOVERS THAT BALANCING BETWEEN BEING AN EVIL OVERLORD AND NOT ACTUALLY DOING ANYTHING EVIL IS A LOT HARDER THAN HE THINKS, ESPECIALLY NOW THERE'S A WHOLE TOWN OF HEROES OUT TO GET HIM TOO!

HEROES! MINIONS! SWORDS! DRAGONS! MAGIC! ROMANCE! SARCASM!

GET READY FOR AN EPIC CLASH BETWEEN GOOD AND KIND-OF-SORT-OF-EVIL!

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